

MAC GEMS: 82 GREAT SOFTWARE BARGAINS

Macworld

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See Page 4

Mac in Black (or White)

The MacBook
Reviewed and
Lab Tested

ALSO REVIEWED

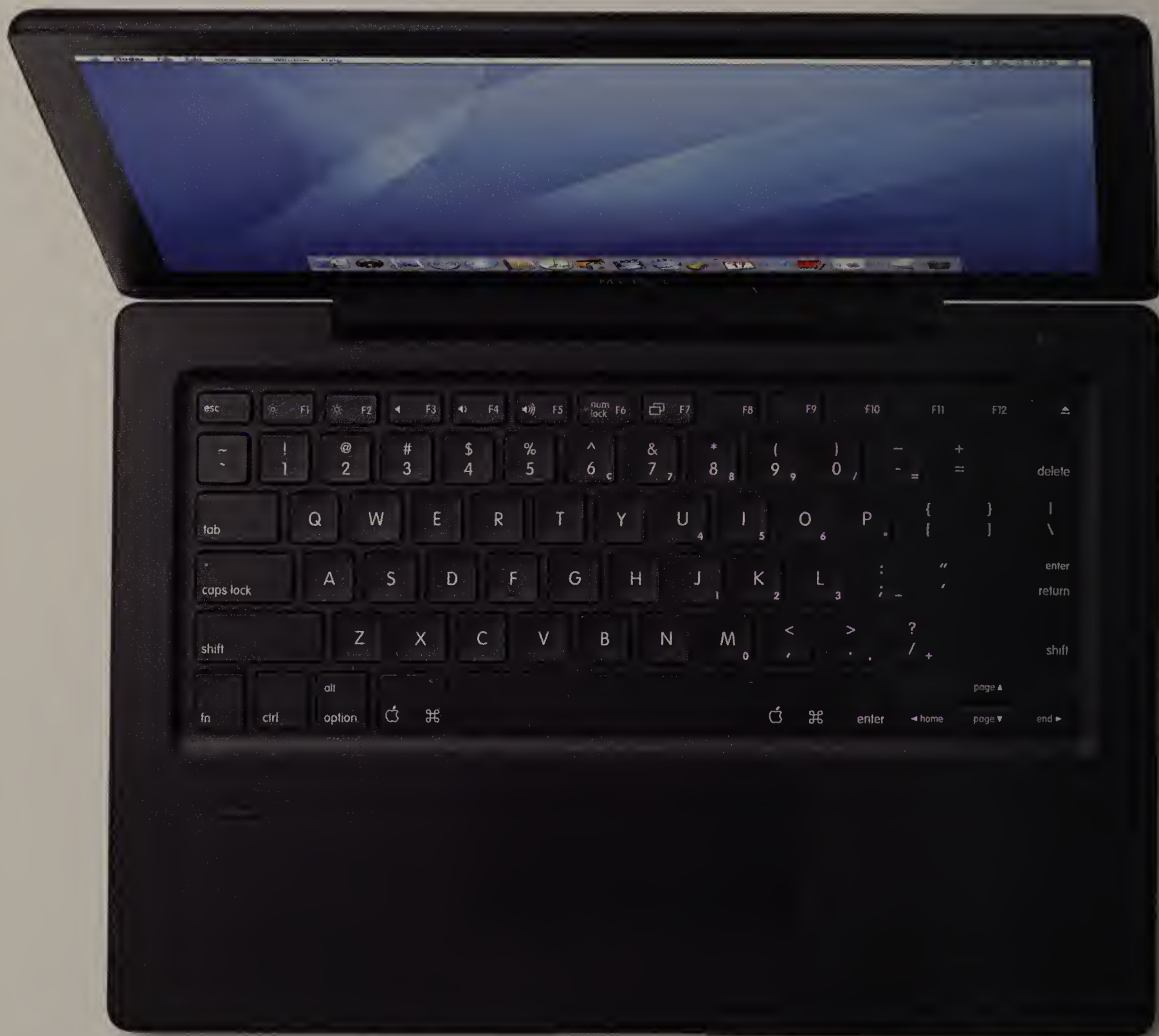
The 17-Inch
MacBook Pro

WORKING WITH WINDOWS



How to Share Files,
Drives, and Networks
with PCs



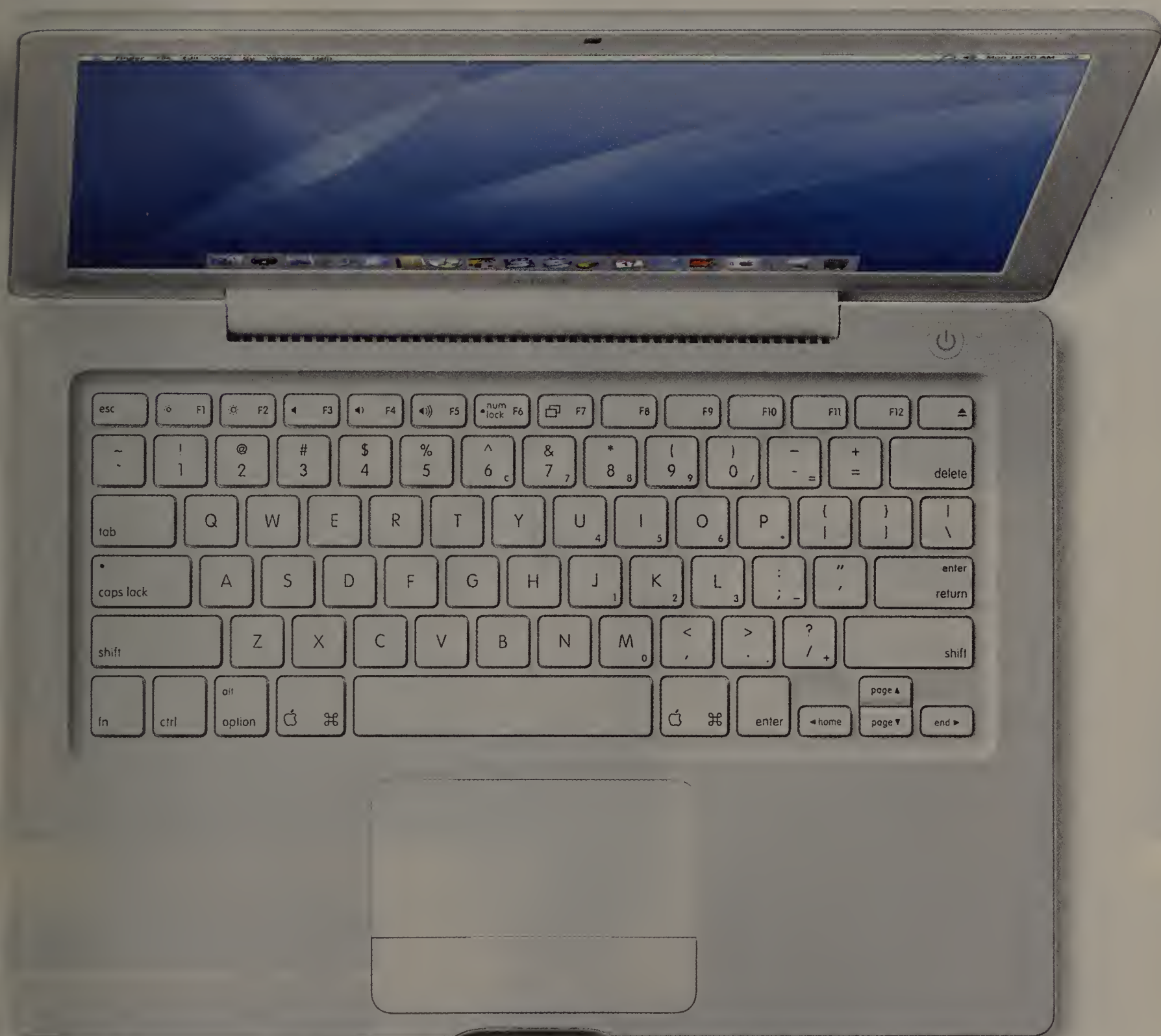


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Meet the MacBooks, the two newest members of the Mac® family. Both feature Intel Core Duo processors right out of the box, and the award-winning iLife® '06 suite of software that lets you easily create

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AIRFRAME



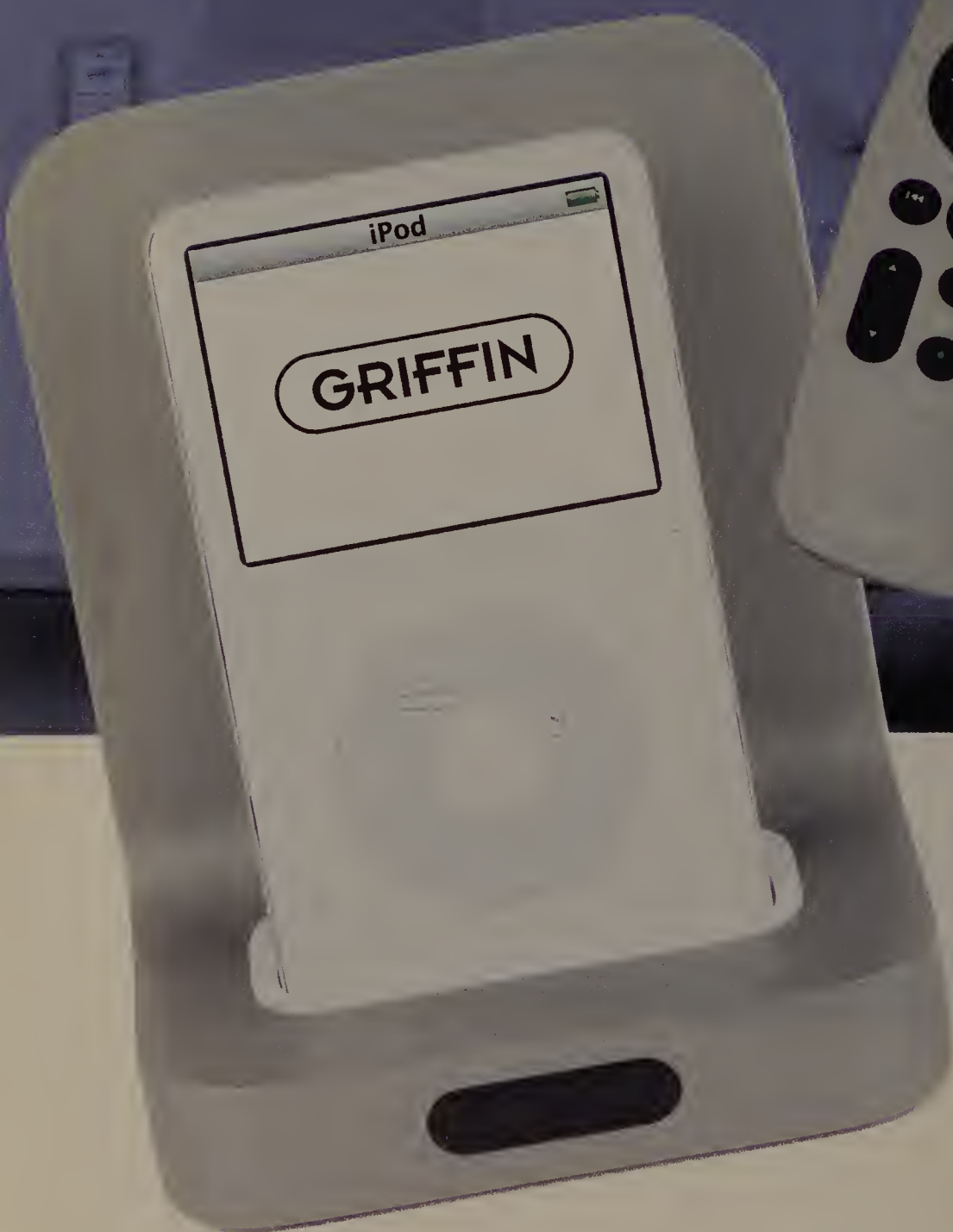
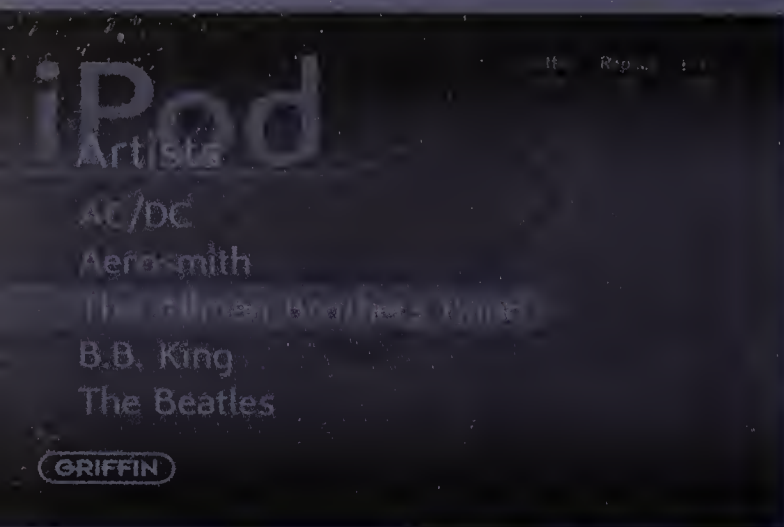
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Macworld

FEATURES

44 Software Jackpot

DAN FRAKES

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54 Living in a Windows World

JOHN RIZZO

The sad fact is that most of us Mac users are still surrounded by Windows PCs. Here are a few of our favorite tips, hacks, and utilities for happily sharing files, drives, and networks with PC users.



44 SOFTWARE JACKPOT



On the Cover
Photograph by Peter Belanger



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- ★★★★½ 13-inch MacBook/2GHz
- ★★★★½ 13-inch MacBook/2GHz (black)

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38 Game Room

PETER COHEN

Check out this month's picks: Call of Duty 2, Flip or Flop Home Edition, Jets'n'Guns, and Lumox 2. Also, we've rated Quake 4.

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MAC BEAT

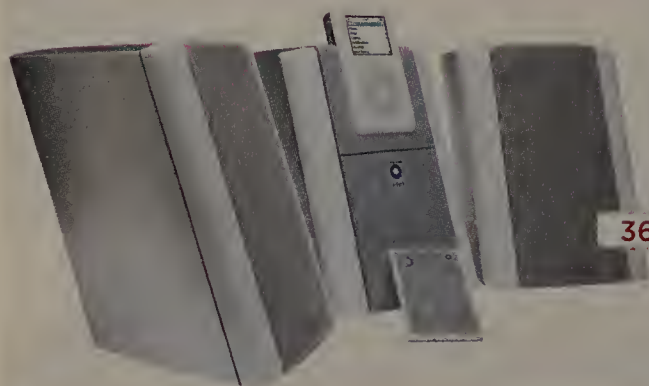
- 14** MacBook FAQs, a Universal version of Final Cut Express HD, Nike's iPod integration, a Boot Camp reader poll, the 24-hour Apple Store, and more.



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**EXCLUSIVE
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See our exclusive interview with Brent Simmons, the creator of NetNewsLite, one of our featured Mac Gems in "Software Jackpot," on page 44.

> Discover some of iTunes' advanced features in this month's edition of Breen's Bungalow.

Check out the best of Macworld.com.
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Caveat Lector

This year, we've seen a flood of new Intel-based Macs, from the Mac mini and the iMac to the MacBook and the MacBook Pro. And with the appearance of each new Mac, we've also seen reports of the quirks, flaws, annoyances, and other problems that supposedly plague it.

Questions of Scale

When Apple ships new products, we hustle to get our hands on them as quickly as possible. In the case of the MacBooks we review in this issue (see page 24), Senior News Editor Jonathan Seff and I went to our local Apple Store and bought two of the new laptops the morning they were shipped. We then set to work.

The Macworld Lab ran benchmark tests on the MacBooks and, within a day, we posted the results online. Meanwhile, we performed hands-on evaluations of the new laptops. Within a few days, we posted an in-depth review online. Add in all our other coverage, and I estimate that we wrote more than ten thousand words about the MacBook during its debut week.

All of that analysis was based on the two specific Macs that we bought. That's the way it usually works with new Apple hardware. At best, we might have access to a handful of models. But sometimes, our reviews and lab tests are based on a single unit. Can we make valid generalizations based on one or two machines? I think the answer to that question is yes. But there are, of course, exceptions.

Bad News Travels Fast

When a company—even a quality-conscious company like Apple—mass-produces a complex, technologically sophisticated product, some units will turn out *not quite right*. That's one reason companies offer warranties; some of their products inevitably won't work perfectly.

The big question is, how can you tell if "some" is going to be one out of every two or one out of every twenty thousand units? We can't answer that question in our reviews. We can only tell you about the products we bought and tested. In theory, this is where the Internet should be able to help you find out, from a wide group of users, whether or not a product is a lemon. In reality, though, separating the signal from the noise on the Internet can be very difficult.

Take the MacBook. It has received a huge amount of attention online—and rightly so. But if you scanned the Net for information about the MacBook in the weeks following its announcement, you might have thought it was a disaster.

One online Mac fan wrote about visiting his local Apple Store and noticing pieces of plastic flaking off the lid of one of the store's black MacBooks. He

posted photos of the flaking MacBook on Flickr. The photos quickly spread, carrying with them the news that there was a potential problem with the finishes on black MacBooks.

As far as I can tell, all of this was generated by one report about one MacBook found at one store. But that one report was repeated so often as to make it seem like a major problem. I received several requests from readers for information about "the MacBook flaking problem."

That wasn't the only problem amplified on the Net. Some users discovered a small plastic strip sealing the MacBook's air vent, potentially leading to overheating. Others heard a high-pitched whine issuing from their MacBook Pros. Someone pried open a MacBook to find that the thermal paste insulating some of its heat-generation components had been misapplied.

None of these stories were made up. But were they indicative of a deeper problem? The Internet can certainly help in alerting you to serious flaws in products. Unfortunately, it can't always help you distinguish such flaws from one-off manufacturing defects.

Making Lemonade

What can we do? As I've said before in this space, we at *Macworld* are hoping to find an ongoing way to poll Mac users about the reliability of their computer hardware. But such polls won't help those of you who are buying a new system.

What can you do? Try to keep everything you read on the Internet in perspective. If you read about problems with a product you're thinking of buying, ask around and check reputable online forums (such as ours, at Macworld.com). If you go ahead and buy, protect yourself. Be sure you're comfortable with the vendor's return policy, and make sure you're clear about the product's warranty terms.

Buying a lemon may be incredibly annoying, but it happens. As long as the number of lemons Apple produces stays low, we'll all be fine. But if that number rises, it'll say bad things about Apple. We'll be watching—and so should you. □

Have you ever bought a lemon from Apple? E-mail me at jason_snell@macworld.com, or tell us about it in our forums at www.macworld.com/forums.

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Robert Lemke, D.D.S., M.D.

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"We just keep coming back! Baltic Blast was our fourth Geek Cruise. The main attraction to me has been the high quality of instructors made available for the topics I have an interest. I have been attending various Photoshop seminars for 6 years, but have found the particular close contact and communication interchange with the Geek Cruises' instructors to have been the most valuable experience in my developing understanding of Photoshop."

Tom Grollman, M.D.

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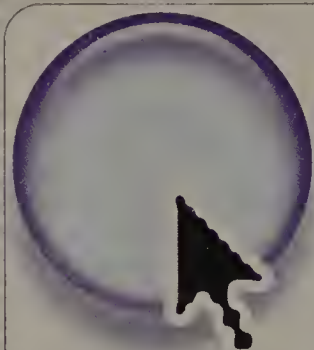
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FEEDBACK

Troubleshooting Trouble

Whenever we propose a story about troubleshooting Macs, some folks around here get nervous. “What problems?” they ask. “How could you even suggest that the World’s Most Perfect Computer has problems?” Well, we love our Macs as much as anyone. But we’re well past that point in the relationship when we idealize them and ignore their flaws. We’ve reached a more mature stage, where we fix the flaws we can and accept those we can’t. Judging from reader reactions to our May 2006 feature, “OS X First Aid,” it looks like many of you are with us. □

First Aid Responders

RUSS HODES



Thanks for Ted Landau’s excellent, concise article about troubleshooting your Mac (“OS X First Aid,” May 2006). This one issue alone is worth the price of a year’s subscription. By the way, my most useful troubleshooting tool is a handwritten logbook. I record every major change I make to the system—adding new hardware and applications or fixing problems. That book helps me keep track of the changes that any good customer support person will ask about.

GREG SEECOF



Regarding your advice on fixing applications that keep crashing: The second step explained Safe Relaunch mode, which forces OS X to replace the application’s preferences file. Curiously, after installing an OS X update last week, I found I could no longer run Apple’s Final Cut Express. I tried the Safe Relaunch trick, but that didn’t resolve the problem, nor did any of the other methods described in your article. What eventually did fix it was moving the preferences file to my desktop, and then relaunching Final Cut Express.

JOSEPH JAPES



The most important thing to do after an application crash is to notify the developer so they can report the problem to Apple, fix it, or help you solve the problem.

ANTHONY P. BARONE



A friend recently gave me his old Pismo PowerBook, which hadn’t been started in more than a year. When I pressed the startup button, nothing happened. I tried resetting the PMU, reseating the RAM, using a different power cord and different battery, and every trick I knew, but nothing worked.

Finally, after searching Apple’s Knowledge Base and posting some messages on discussion boards, I found a fix. After taking off the keyboard and removing the optical drive, I disconnected the battery. When I pressed the startup button, the computer came back to life. After shutting it down again, I reconnected the battery. The computer has worked just fine ever since.

DON SMITH



Here’s a little trick for figuring out which login items might be causing problems: Disable *half* of them on the first try. If the problem is gone, you only need to check the items in that half of the list. If the trouble remains, check the other half. You can repeat this eliminate-half approach until you narrow it down to one item.

Your Syncing Feelings

CHRIS FANTA



I was really glad to read “Keeping Your Macs in Sync” (*Mobile Mac*, May 2006): However, I think you should have mentioned another way to sync POP mail accounts. After selecting an account in Entourage (Tools: Accounts), double-click on an account, select the Options tab, and then select Leave A Copy Of Each Message On Server and Delete Message On Server When Deleted From This Machine. Apple Mail doesn’t give you the option of deleting a message from the server when you delete it from your local machine, but you can set it to automatically remove messages after a certain period of time. As long as you check your messages from your various machines often, this method should do much the same thing.

The problem with this method is that it isn’t really syncing: your POP server won’t keep track of which messages you’ve read, replied

to, or forwarded, nor will messages you’ve filed into mailboxes on one machine appear in those mailboxes on another. A better solution is IMAP; see Mobile Mac, July 2006.—Ed.

JOEL SERCEL



One of the recommended approaches to syncing e-mail in “Keeping Your Macs in Sync” (*Mobile Mac*, May 2006)—namely, copying mailboxes from one computer to another—is potentially dangerous, because it can overwrite messages. A much better approach would be to network the two Macs and then import mailboxes. This will pull messages from one machine to the other without danger of overwriting.

We said quite clearly that the copy-over operation is risky. Importing is even worse than syncing, because you can’t import messages into their existing mailboxes. Importing creates new mailboxes, so you’ll end up with duplicate mailboxes and many duplicate messages.—Ed.

Virology 101

RON LEPPKE



Regarding “Mac Virus Attack” (*Mac Beat*, May 2006): I feel much more secure on my Mac than my friends do on their Windows machines. I don’t know a single Mac user who has ever reported finding a virus on his or her system. I have read through many of the Mac sites and haven’t found any evi-

CORRECTIONS

In our June 2006 *Mobile Mac* column, we mistakenly implied that the Sennheiser PX 100 W and AKG K 26 P headphones are appropriate for listening on a plane. They are not, because they’d require dangerous volume levels to be audible in such an environment.

dence of a single Mac virus. That more people than ever use Mac OS and that the Mac now has Intel chips are irrelevant. What matters are the basic safeguards that are made possible by OS X's Unix base and the skills of Apple's engineers.

Same Old Quark

JESUS ALI

"Killer XPress Time-Savers" (*Create*, May 2006) exposed exactly why QuarkXPress is dead in the water. I haven't used XPress for more than three years, and yet I recognized 90 percent of the tips. When my college computer lab switched to Mac OS X 10.2, I was forced to use Adobe InDesign. At first I was horrified, but I've never looked back. I love InDesign for its flawless typographic and PDF export abilities—features that XPress users must still jump through hoops to employ.

Just Deserts

DANIEL SCHERL

In your May 2006 *Mac 911* column, there is a problem that I think needs to be

addressed. On page 90, there is a sidebar titled, "The Desert Island Question." It should have been "The Deserted Island Question." Though some islands are indeed deserts, most are not. If the island isn't a desert, there could still be other people there—a possibility that contradicts the point of the sidebar.

No Reason to Switch

MATT BLITZ

As a creative professional who uses a dual-core G5, I can't imagine why anyone would upgrade to an Intel Mac until Adobe and Microsoft come out with Universal versions of Creative Suite and Office ("Where Are Adobe and Microsoft?" *Mac Beat*, May 2006). From all the reports I've read, we can't expect to see Universal versions of these two pieces of software for at least six months. So any professional who is currently running Photoshop or InDesign is bound to notice a processing slowdown of nearly 50 percent on an Intel Mac. I can understand someone upgrading from, say, an 800MHz G4 iMac or something equally slow. But I doubt that a majority of us pros

in the real world will be jumping on the Intel bandwagon until Adobe jumps first.

Feedback Feedback

TONY THOMPSON

In *Feedback* (May 2006), Bruce Carey wrote that "people feel they have the right to make a copy of a copyrighted work and then give it to someone else." People should have this belief, because it's correct, as long as the copy is for personal use. The copyright law says so. What people can't do is give away many copies. How many is "many?" No one knows.

Post comments on our forums (www.macworld.com); send them by mail to

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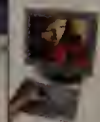
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macbeat

WHAT'S NEW

WHAT'S IN THE PIPELINE

WHAT'S HOT



MacBook FAQs

What You Need to Know about Apple's New Laptop

BY JONATHAN SEFF AND
JASON SNELL

The MacBook replaces both the iBook and the 12-inch PowerBook G4 in the Apple product line. Just as you might expect from a product that replaces both a consumer and professional system, the MacBook is a fascinating hybrid of high-end features and cost-conscious engineering. We've spent some time with this new laptop and have some answers to several burning MacBook questions from the Mac community (for our review of the MacBook, see "MacBooks, in Black and White," on page 24).

How does the MacBook fit into Apple's portable lineup?

With the release of the MacBook, Apple has discontinued its last two PowerPC-based laptop models: the 12-inch PowerBook G4 and both sizes (12 inches and 14 inches) of the iBook. The 12-inch PowerBook was in many ways a souped-up iBook

with a metal skin, so merging the two products wasn't that much of a stretch.

Does the MacBook come in only one size?

Currently, yes. There's no word if Apple will be making a larger version of the MacBook. For now, if you want a screen larger than 13 inches on a Mac laptop, you'll need to upgrade to the MacBook Pro.

Why did Apple raise the price of its entry-level laptop?

Apple no longer has a \$999 laptop, which some folks have already lamented, as much for the psychological aspect as for the expense. But if you ignore everything else, this is a consumer-level laptop with a dual-core processor—a feature that can justify the price increase all by itself.

Apple could have chosen to release an inexpensive, underpowered MacBook with only an Intel Core Solo processor—the same approach it took with its

Intel-based Mac minis. But Apple didn't choose that path. Apple's MacBook product manager told us that the company wanted to simplify its portable product line. Tossing in another model running a different chip would have complicated matters. Consequently, even the lowest-priced MacBook is a remarkably powerful machine.

Tell us about the black MacBook.

If you're an old Mac hand, you'll find the black MacBook quite reminiscent of the Wall Street generation of G3 PowerBooks. Unlike the white MacBook (or previous iBooks), the black MacBook has a matte finish. After less than a day of use, the trackpad on the black model was shiny with fingerprints, though the rest of the case remained in good shape.

Color aside, the only other differences between it and the 2GHz white model are a slightly bigger hard drive (80GB versus 60GB)—and a \$200 price increase.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY PETER BELANGER

Do-It-Yourself Upgrades

The hard-drive upgrade is a \$50 option. Is Apple charging \$150 just for the color?

Yes—if price is your main concern, the black model is not for you. But as with the U2 Special Edition iPod, Apple proved that it could charge more for a modified design. Plus, people were ready to throw cash at Apple when it released the iPod mini, an iPod that cost nearly as much as a full-size iPod, but which had only a fraction of the storage space. The mini went on to become the most popular iPod model. Apple says that the MacBook's different look will also appeal to more-professional customers who prefer a small laptop. Clearly, Apple is banking on customers who will still pay a premium for a different design.

Isn't the glossy screen on the MacBook a bad thing? Won't I now see my reflection?

If you've ever walked past a PC laptop (or your TV for that matter) and noticed that the screen was incredibly reflective, you've seen the same type of screen that's on the MacBook. In the right lighting, the glossy screen is absolutely gorgeous: blacks are blacker, whites are whiter, and colors are more intense. However, the screen is also very reflective compared with Apple's previous laptop displays. If you work in an environment that has a lot of glare, the MacBook might not be for you. Some people will love it and others will hate it.

Why did Apple change the screen?

According to Apple, iBook customers have been asking for a glossy screen for almost as long as those screens have been available for PC laptops—and that's been quite awhile. Apple also says that only now has the glossy-screen technology advanced enough to make the company comfortable using it on its laptops. Apple's MacBook product manager told us that the two big improvements in the glossy screens were a reduction in reflection levels and the elimination of color-distortion problems. Consider that the screen is also 79 percent brighter than the one on the iBooks and 12-inch PowerBook—this new screen might just end up pleasing a lot of people.

How does the MacBook's keyboard differ from other keyboards?

The MacBook features an entirely new keyboard style for Apple. The biggest change is the look. Previous Apple laptops featured keyboards with keys that were wide at the base but narrower at the top. Even though there were fairly large spaces between the areas where your fingers could contact the keys, there were only tiny gaps at the base of the keys.

The MacBook keyboard eliminates that design. The MacBook's keys are short, perfectly square keys—though you can still pop them off if you want to. Apple says it'll be harder for kids to remove the keys—good news for schools.

Although the feel of the MacBook's keyboard is hard to describe, it's definitely *different*. However, it's quite usable, and we adapted to the new keyboard almost immediately.

The MacBook uses the same GMA 950 integrated graphics as the Mac mini—should I worry?

This *is* a consumer laptop, so Apple has made some technological sacrifices. One of these is the MacBook's lack of a graphics chip with dedicated video RAM. It's the same graphics chip that's in the Mac mini. For most tasks, you probably won't notice the lack of a video card at all—but if you try to play a 3-D game, you'll see the difference. The MacBook's Core Duo processor can overcome many of the limitations of its graphics system. And remember that the MacBook improves the resolution of the models it replaces.

Apple only sells MacBooks with RAM that uses both slots? Why? The MacBook Pro ships with just one RAM module.

Like the other Intel-based Macs, the MacBook uses dual-channel memory. Although you can put RAM in just one slot, the RAM achieves maximum throughput when it's installed in matched pairs. According to Apple, you probably wouldn't notice much of a difference on the MacBook Pro, which has a discrete graphics card. But on the MacBook, which shares at least 80MB of its main memory with the onboard graphics system, the extra speed you gain by having two separate RAM modules is vital.



Total Access To upgrade the RAM and hard drive, just flip the MacBook over, remove the battery, and unscrew the three screws holding the L-shaped aluminum strip in place.



RAM Push the levers to pop out the RAM modules, and put new ones in their places. A video of the procedure, which also covers hard-drive swapping, is available at macworld.com/1436.



Hard Drive On the left side of the battery bay, untuck the white plastic tab that's looped under the drive and then use it to slide the drive out into the bay. You can then unscrew the special metal drive enclosure, remove the drive, and attach the enclosure to a different Serial ATA laptop drive.

512MB of included RAM isn't enough—should I order a customized MacBook with more RAM?

We wouldn't use a Mac with 512MB of RAM, so take that as a strong recommendation to upgrade. Apple usually charges a lot more for RAM than the prices you can find by searching a Web site such as Ram-seeker. In the upgrade to 1GB, however, Apple's prices are in line with the industry. If 1GB is all you need, it's probably best to let Apple do it. But if you want a MacBook stocked with 2GB of RAM, you could save as much as \$300 by ordering your system with the stock 512MB, pulling out those RAM modules, and replacing them with modules you bought elsewhere.

Is it true that the MacBook has a greater AirPort range and also sees more networks?

In our testing, both of these things have been true. We were able to stretch an AirPort Base Station signal a bit farther, and noticed more networks popping up when we clicked on the AirPort icon in the menu bar. Apple says that the MacBook's antennae (there are two, both located by the MacBook's display: one placed horizontally on the left side and another placed vertically on the right) were specifically designed for the MacBook. It definitely appears to have better reception than older laptop models. Though Apple officially only supports connections to 802.11b and 802.11g networks, the MacBook can connect to 802.11a networks, too.

I want to attach the MacBook to an external monitor.

You can do it, but you'll need to buy one (or both) of two \$19 video adapters.

Won't connecting the MacBook to an external monitor display the same thing I'm seeing on my MacBook?

No. The MacBook can do video mirroring (both displays show the same thing),

but it also supports desktop extension, giving you extra screen real estate. You can even boot the MacBook with its lid closed, attached to an external monitor. Although the 12-inch PowerBook has the same capabilities, this is all new ground for iBook users.

I own a MacBook Pro—can I use its power supply on a MacBook?

If you hold the two power supplies side by side, you'll notice that the MacBook Pro's is larger. That's because the MacBook Pro uses an 85-watt power supply, and the MacBook uses a 60-watt power supply. Apple says that you can use the more powerful, 85-watt power supply with a MacBook without any problems, and that in 80 percent to 90 percent of situations, you can use the MacBook's power supply with the more-demanding MacBook Pro as well. If you're really taxing the MacBook Pro's processor with some heavy-duty work, the MacBook's adapter will still be able to power the MacBook Pro—but it may not have any power left over to charge its battery.

What's the battery life on the MacBook?

Apple told us that the battery life is close to that of the iBook. Apple claims that in light use, the MacBook can run up to 6 hours on one charge. With more normal use, you could expect between 3 and 3.75 hours. We got around 3.5 hours of DVD playback on a charge.

Should I worry about putting a MacBook on my lap?

There has been a lot of talk recently about heat issues and the MacBook Pro. Over many hours of use, we found the bottom of the MacBook became very warm on the left side—enough to keep a leg or lap toasty, but not enough to be uncomfortable. □

JONATHAN SEFF is *Macworld's* senior news editor.

JASON SNELL is *Macworld's* editorial director.

Apple WWDC 2006

WWDC to Focus on Leopard

Apple will hold its Worldwide Developers Conference (WWDC) from August 7 to August 11 at the Moscone Center West in San Francisco. The annual conference provides hardware and software developers with in-depth information and access to Apple engineers. Apple has added information about 100 sessions on its Web site and plans to spend much of the time on OS X 10.5, also known as Leopard, which will be released in 2007 (developer.apple.com/wwdc).



Quark Releases XPress 7

During a special event in New York City's SoHo district in May, Quark

announced the latest version of its page-layout software, QuarkXPress 7. The company estimates that it has licensed well over three million copies of XPress over the years, with more than five billion XPress documents in circulation worldwide. With the increasing popularity of Adobe's InDesign software, however, Quark's announcement is perhaps less important than it might have been a decade ago (read our review of QuarkXPress 7, on page 30).



Apple Sells Its PowerSchool Software

Apple said it will sell its PowerSchool software—used by K–12 school administrators, teachers, and parents to track students' grades, homework, and attendance—to New Jersey-based Pearson Education. Pearson, publishers of educational content for print and online, plans to add iPod-compatible content, letting teachers listen to professional development podcasts to help them with lesson preparation and problem areas with students, and giving students new study guides aligned with Pearson texts, as well as audio review notes.










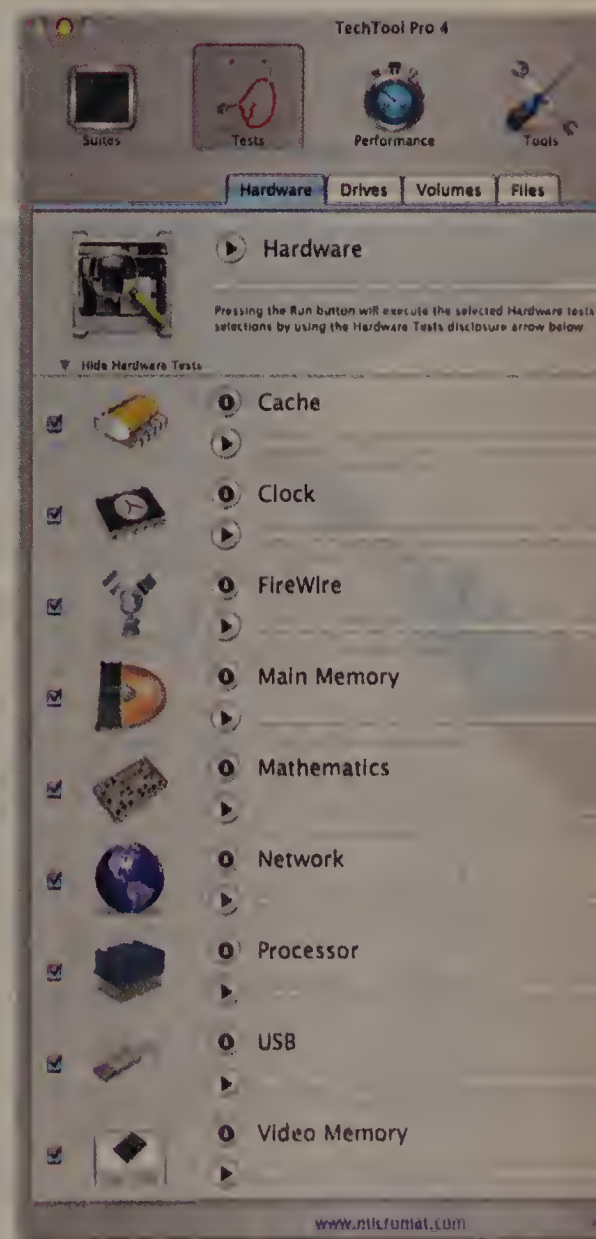
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Ensure that your computer keeps running its best.
-  **Optimization**
Enhance the overall performance and simplify file layout of your hard drives.
-  **Data Recovery**
Recover important data from corrupted hard drives.
-  **Safety**
Protect your computer and hard drives automatically in the background.
-  **eDrive**
Create an emergency startup partition so TechTool Pro is always available.

TechTool Pro is a feature-packed release of the most comprehensive diagnostic, repair, and maintenance utility of all time! A must-have Macintosh application, this utility from Micromat is truly the one indispensable product you need to ensure your Mac is always trouble free.



COMPANY IS SEEKING IDENTITIES OF LEAKERS

Apple Loses Rumor-Site Appeal

In 2004, details of an unannounced Apple product (code-named Asteroid) made their way onto an online news site called PowerPage. A none-too-happy Apple sued several unnamed individuals for leaking that information, and subpoenaed PowerPage publisher Jason O'Grady's ISP for the communications and unpublished materials relating to the leak.

The Electronic Frontier Foundation (www.eff.org), a nonprofit group that defends digital rights, argued that the online journalists should have the same right to protect the confidentiality of their sources as offline reporters do. As such, the case raised issues of what, exactly, constitutes a journalist, and whether a company's right to protect its trade secrets outweighs first-amendment protections.

The trial judge ruled that when a journalist publishes information that a

company claims to be a trade secret, then constitutional protections the journalist's confidential sources enjoyed are nullified. But the case took an interesting turn recently when an appeals judge for California's 6th Appellate District agreed with lawyers for PowerPage and



AppleInsider, who argued that the confidentiality of sources for the online journalists were protected by the First Amendment.

In rendering his decision Judge Conrad Rushing said, "we can think of no workable test or principle that would distinguish 'legitimate' from 'illegitimate' news. Any attempt by courts to draw such a distinction would imperil a

fundamental purpose of the First Amendment, which is to identify the best, most important, and most valuable ideas . . . through the rough and tumble competition of the memetic marketplace."

The judge also ruled that Apple's subpoena was unenforceable in that it violated the federal Stored Communications Act, which requires direct subpoenas of account holders.

"Today's decision is a victory for the rights of journalists, whether online or offline, and for the public at large," said EFF Staff Attorney Kurt Opsahl, who argued the case before the appeals court, in a statement on the group's Web site.

It's safe to assume, however, that Apple will look for other ways to figure out where the information came from.—JIM DALRYMPLE

THE CONQUEST

DiskWarrior is Now OS X Native

It's the indispensable utility that repairs problems such as disks that won't mount, files you can't trash, and folders that have disappeared. MacUser magazine said, "It's the fastest and safest data recovery utility you can buy."

Macworld magazine said, "DiskWarrior is by far the best disk utility available for the Mac; it can repair virtually any disk problem you may

encounter...and it is likely to become the only tool you'll want to keep with you at all times."

David Coursey, ZDNet AnchorDesk, agrees in an article comparing disk utilities. He used it to fix a disk that no other utility could. "DiskWarrior is a great product, not just because it fixed a pretty serious screw-up, but because it showed me what it planned to do in minute detail before doing it."

But disk damage isn't the only threat to your data. As hard drives get older, the drive mechanisms

THE UTILITY COMPANY

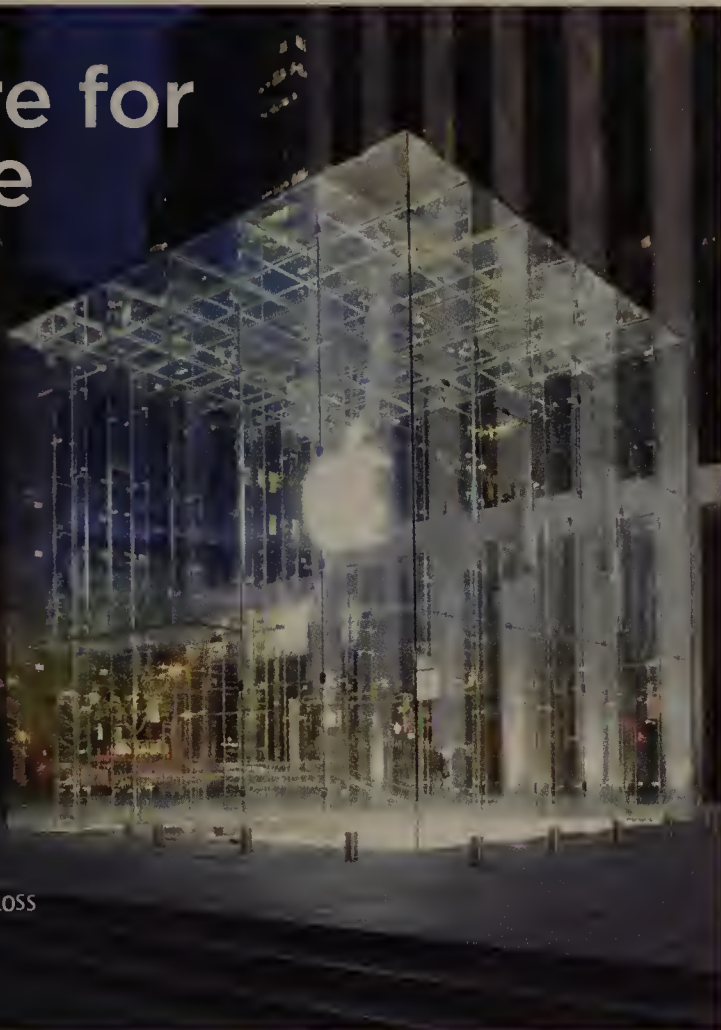


Phone: 1-800-257-6381 Fax: 281-353-9868 Email: sales.info@alsoft.com Web Site: www.alsoft.com

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New Store for Big Apple

In May, Apple opened its newest flagship location—a 10,000 square foot subterranean retail store—on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan. The 32-foot cube that caps the store only hints at the massive retail store beneath. There are 538 sheets of glass in the structure, designed to let in light and ambiance throughout the day, supported by more than four hundred metal bolts. The new location is the 147th Apple store, and is the first to stay open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.—DAVID SCHLOSS



MULTIMEDIA BEAT

Ampeg SVX, from IK Multimedia (www.amepeg.com): Bass amp plug-in includes more than 20 bass gear emulations (\$399).

Flix Pro 8.5, from On2 Technologies (www.on2.com): Flash video-encoding software supports two-pass Flash 8-based video encoding and adds chroma color keying tools for user-generated green-screen visual effects (\$249; upgrade from 8.X, free).

iDive 1.7, from Aquafadas (www.aquafadas.com): Video-clip and still-image storage app adds the ability to print out contact sheets with media clips, and support for printing tape, CD, and DVD covers from catalog data (\$70; upgrade for 1.5 and 1.6 users, free).

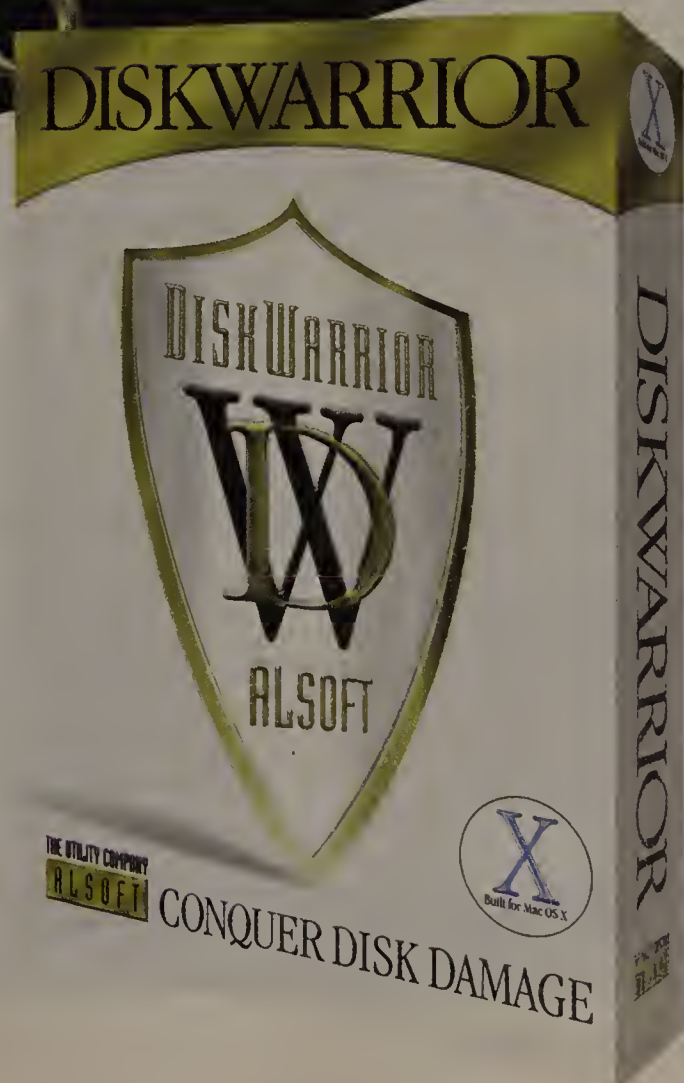
TVMax, from Miglia Technology (www.miglia.com): This digital video recorder is designed with the Mac mini in mind, letting you watch TV in windowed or full-screen mode on a Mac (\$249).

Videator 1.0, from Stone Design (www.stone.com): Movie editor and creator gives users access to more than 108 effects, transitions, and filters for layering movies, images, music, and text over video, taking advantage of their Core Image and Core Video technologies (\$49).

CONTINUES

begin to malfunction. Eventually, the malfunctions become so severe that the drive simply stops working. DiskWarrior can automatically test for hardware malfunctions, giving you the chance to back up your data before it's too late.

Be prepared. Don't wait until after you have a disk disaster to buy your copy of DiskWarrior. Bob LeVitus, aka Dr. Mac, said, "I feel naked without DiskWarrior." You can believe MacHome magazine when they said, "DiskWarrior is a quick, one-click solution to faster, more stable hard drives."



PROGRAM ADDS INTEL SUPPORT, DYNAMIC RT, AND MORE

Apple Updates Final Cut Express HD

Not long after releasing an Intel-native version of Final Cut Studio (which includes Final Cut Pro 5, DVD Studio Pro 4, Motion 2, and Soundtrack Pro) Apple also updated Final Cut Express HD—the company's video-editing software aimed at video enthusiasts, schools, and small businesses—to a Universal Binary. And just as with Final Cut Studio, Final Cut Express HD 3.5 has new features, includes updates of bundled applications, and comes as a paid upgrade (owners of any version of Final Cut Express can upgrade for \$99; a full version costs \$299).

Final Cut Express HD 3.5 features editing tools for DV and HDV formats, and supports multiple video layers, real-time effects and transitions, color correction and matting filters, and more.

In addition to running natively on Apple's Intel-based Macs, version 3.5 borrows a few other features from the full Final Cut Pro app. One is Dynamic RT, which lets you preview many effects and transitions without having to render them. The application adjusts the image



quality and frame rate as needed, based on available CPU power.

The other new feature is full keyframe effects control, giving you more control over effects, transitions, and motion parameters. You can also save your modified effects for use in other projects.

Final Cut Express HD 3.5 also includes Sound-

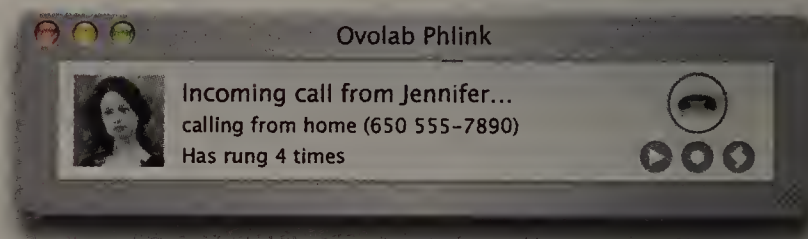
track 1.5, an updated version of Apple's loop-based soundtrack-creation tool. It improves multitrack audio editing and single- and multiple-take recording. And LiveType 2.1 lets you add animated text, royalty-free backgrounds, and animated textures to video projects. It adds new animated graphics (including 70 new animated objects, 15 new textures, and 60 new customizable preset effects), as well as vector-based LiveFont technology for animating text styles and scaling them to any resolution.

When Apple first released Final Cut Express, the company marketed the product as filling the void between the high-end Final Cut Pro and Apple's consumer iMovie product. Apple says that the strategy has worked very well.

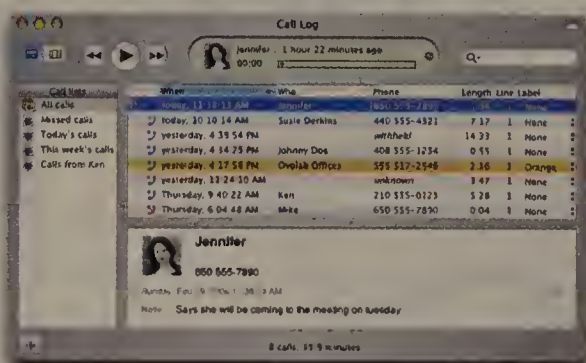
"This is ideally suited to the iMovie customer who has outgrown that application," said Kirk Paulsen, Apple's senior director of professional applications marketing. "Final Cut Express has proven to be a phenomenal success." —PETER COHEN AND JIM DALRYMPLE

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THE READERS SPEAK

Boot Camp: First Thoughts

How important is Apple's Boot Camp software (which lets Intel-based Macs run Windows XP) to Mac users? What will it mean for future software development? Will it bring more people to the Mac? To find out what people think, we surveyed 1,884 *Macworld* readers (to see the complete results of our survey, including attitudes about buying Intel Macs, go to macworld.com/1437).—JONATHAN SEFF

In Apple's Camp

	Agree	Disagree	Don't Know
Software developers will stop producing programs to run on the Mac	17%	55%	28%
Boot Camp is likely to attract more users to the Mac platform.	83%	5%	12%
Boot Camp makes me more likely to stick to a Mac.	50%	37%	13%
Boot Camp's impact is good for the Mac.	69%	8%	23%



PRODUCTIVITY
BEAT

AtTask 4, from AtTask (www.attask.com):

Java-based, browser-independent project-management system adds new tabbed navigation interface and task-management functionality (contact AtTask for pricing).

ConceptDraw Mindmap 4.4, from Concept Systems Odessa (www.conceptdraw.com): Update to mind-mapping application can save outlines and text notes directly to the iPod (Personal edition, \$99; Professional edition, \$199; upgrades, free).

iSale 3.1, from Equinox (www.equinox.com): eBay sales utility adds the ability to relist unsold auctions and a "watch count" that shows how many people are viewing or following an auction (\$40; upgrades, free to 3.X users, \$15 to all others).

My Money Minder 1.8, from Ben Blake (macworld.com/1448): Personal-finance application adds the ability to import and export OFX/OFC files and improves error reporting and entry-name autocompletion (\$13).

SubEthaEdit 2.5, from TheCodingMonkeys (www.codingmonkeys.de): Collaborative text editor adds double-click mode installation, a customizable toolbar for each mode, and broad support for AppleScripts, for automating text manipulation (\$35).

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iSkin.com

Right image shown with optional black skin (sold separately)

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APPLE PARTNERS ON NIKE+ PRODUCT LINE

Nike to Add iPod-Integration

Apple and Nike are two of the most recognizable companies in the world, and they hope to take advantage of that fact as they join together to sell a new line of interactive fitness products known as Nike + iPod (nikeplus.com). The first product is the Nike + iPod Sport Kit, which lets certain

Nike shoes wirelessly send data to an iPod nano. The system measures time, distance, calories burned, and pace, and displays (and stores) it on the iPod. Users can later upload that information to Nike's Web site to track progress. The iPod also offers real-time audible feedback.

The \$29 kit, which will be available through Apple's and Nike's retail stores and Web sites in mid-July, includes an in-shoe sensor and a receiver that attach-



es to the iPod. It requires a Nike+ Ready shoe, such as the \$100 Air Zoom Moire+. Apple also plans to add a Nike Sport Music section to the iTunes Music Store.

Why did Apple pick the partnership? It's a good fit. "When you describe the Nike brand, some of the same things you would use also

describe the Apple brand," says Greg Joswiak, Apple's vice president of worldwide iPod marketing.

At least one analyst agrees. "I think it's one of those deals where it really works out

well for both parties," says Michael Gartenberg, vice president and research director at JupiterResearch. "It gives Nike the ability to associate with a very strong brand like Apple that meshes well [in terms of] demographics. People running are spending a lot more time listening to music than they did in the


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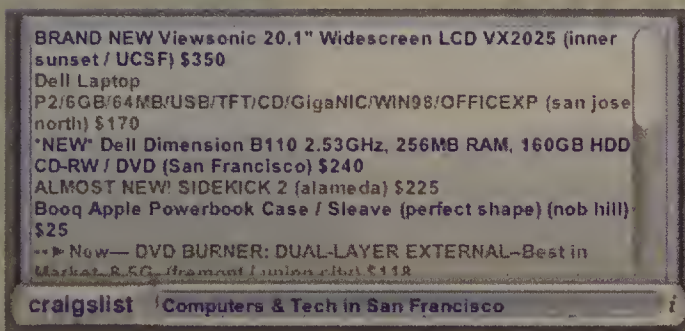
past. For Apple, it extends the iPod as a platform, not just as another portable media player, and creates a strong brand identification. It's multiple wins for both companies."

Joswiak adds that "It matches naturally to a behavior that exists. We've enabled people to have a much better running experience than ever before."

This isn't Nike's first foray into the MP3 player market. Prior to the deal with Apple, Nike had been selling a line of MP3 players co-branded with Philips. And in April, Nike announced the PSA 610, an MP3 player made by Philips with a 4GB hard drive and a built-in GPS sensor.—JIM DALRYMPLE AND MATHEW HONAN

CHECK IT OUT: WIDGET

When I need to buy something—whether it's a used toaster or a used Mac—I always check Craigslist first (www.craigslist.org). This classified ad Web site started as an e-mail list in San Francisco in 1995 and now covers more than 120 cities in the United States and 80 more around the world. If you don't want to visit the site to search its listings, check out Twin Creative's free Craigslist Widget 1.1. You pick the city and the category you want to monitor, and you're only a function key away from the 15 most recent posts (macworld.com/1435).—CYRUS FARIVAR



STORAGE BEAT

Mercury Elite-AL 800 Pro RAID-1 750GB, from Other World Computing (www.macsales.com): External hard drive uses FireWire 400 and 800 to attach to the Mac, with its chassis housing two individual 750GB mirrored drives (\$1,219).

miniStack V2, from Newer Technology (www.macsales.com): New version of the storage devices comes in a 750GB capacity and has FireWire and USB connectivity (\$600).

SeriTek/1SM2 and SeriTek/2EN2, from FirmTek (www.firmtek.com): PC card adapter and dual bay enclosure, respectively, let PowerBook users add external Serial ATA capabilities to their laptops (bundle, \$280; SeriTek/1SM2, \$90; SeriTek/2EN2, \$200).

ToughTech eSATA, from WiebeTech (www.wiebetech.com): External Serial ATA version of hard-drive enclosure with shock mounting comes without a drive or in capacities ranging from 250GB to 750GB (\$90 to \$755, depending on capacity).

X-SPAND IP, from Kano Technologies (www.kanotechnologies.com): Line of iSCSI-based network storage appliances carry SCSI commands over IP networks and start with four disk drives (expandable to 16 drives; pricing starts at \$5,999).

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GOOD:
FLAWED:
UNACCEPTABLE:



MacBooks, in Black and White

Impressive Laptops Narrow the Gap between Consumer and Pro Models

BY JONATHAN SEFF

The release of the MacBook Pro ushered in a new era in mobile computing for Apple: the professional laptop introduced two processing cores, a built-in video camera, remote-controlled multimedia software, and more.

The three new MacBooks—one 1.83GHz and two 2GHz models—replace Apple's entire iBook line and the 12-inch Power-

Book G4. They incorporate many of the upgrades included in the MacBook Pro machines, offer impressive performance and features for an entry-level laptop line, and blur the distinction between consumer and professional laptops.

Though Apple no longer offers a laptop for less than \$1,000, the improvements built into the new MacBooks are worth the added cost. The MacBooks are a great choice for people who want a laptop but don't need the fastest model available, or who don't play 3-D games that require speedy frame rates. And with its first black model in years, Apple has given all laptop users a reason to covet the MacBook.

Performance Matters

Apple released three MacBook configurations, all with Core Duo processors, 2MB of Level 2 cache, a 667MHz frontside bus, and fast RAM. So no matter

which model you choose, you'll get performance similar to the MacBook Pro line's.

The new MacBooks performed well overall, especially in our processor-intensive native-application tests, during which they surpassed even the 1.5GHz 12-inch PowerBook. The MacBooks were three times as fast in our Cinema 4D XL Render test, nearly twice as fast in our Compressor MPEG-2 Encode test, and about 1.5 times as fast in our iTunes MP3 Encode test.

What's more interesting is how little you lose by choosing the least-expensive model. This shouldn't be surprising, given the relatively close speeds of the processors, but it's very nice that Apple hasn't crippled its entry-level laptop. I installed the Intel-native Final Cut Studio (one program in this professional suite, Motion, wouldn't even install on an iBook) on the 1.83GHz MacBook model, and everything was quite



13-INCH MACBOOKS COMPARED

COMPANY	PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE	CONTACT	PROS	CONS
Apple Computer	MacBook/1.83GHz	★★★★½	\$1,099	www.apple.com	Fast Core Duo processor yields great performance; built-in iSight camera; attractive case design; affordable.	Rough case edge; weak speakers; poor 3-D game performance; no video cables included.
Apple Computer	MacBook/2GHz	★★★★½	\$1,299	www.apple.com	Fast Core Duo processor yields great performance; built-in iSight camera; attractive case design; affordable.	Rough case edge; weak speakers; poor 3-D game performance; no video cables included.
Apple Computer	MacBook/2GHz (black)	★★★★½	\$1,499	www.apple.com	Fast Core Duo processor yields great performance; built-in iSight camera; attractive case design; affordable.	Rough case edge; weak speakers; poor 3-D game performance; no video cables included; high price premium for black case.

REVIEWS YOU CAN TRUST Macworld rates only final shipping products, not prototypes. What we review is what you can actually buy.

usable. Apple says that Final Cut Studio is not supported on systems using Intel's GMA 950 graphics processor, but I found that it worked just fine.

With all Intel-based Macs, applications that have not yet been updated to run natively on Intel chips must use Apple's Rosetta dynamic-translation technology. Those apps perform much more slowly on the MacBooks than they do on older, PowerPC-based Macs.

For example, in our Photoshop CS2 tests, the 1.83GHz MacBook took almost 68 percent longer to complete our suite of tests than the 12-inch PowerBook, while the 2GHz MacBook took 53 percent longer.

I also used some of the applications in the Microsoft Office 2004 suite—which is not Intel-native—and after waiting a little longer for them to launch, I could barely tell that OS X had to translate the instruction code to run the apps on the Intel-based system.

On Display

The first thing most people will notice about the MacBook is the display: its wide-screen format and glossy coating make it radically different from previous Apple screens.

For the first time on any Mac laptop, Apple has used a glossy coating—common on Windows laptops—instead of an antiglare coating. The result is a much more reflective display that also has very crisp blacks, bright whites, and vibrant colors.

I quickly got used to the new glossy screen, but some people will find the glare

distracting, especially in brightly lit offices or outdoors.

With the MacBook, Apple has switched all its displays to a wide-screen format. The 13-inch MacBook display offers a 1,280-by-800-pixel native resolution, 30 percent higher than the 1,024-by-768-pixel resolution of the iBook and 12-inch PowerBook models. This is better for watching DVDs, having multiple windows open at once, and keeping floating application palettes next to open document windows.

Graphics View

Powering the new display is Intel's GMA 950 integrated graphics processor, the same processor that's in the Mac mini. Unlike traditional Mac graphics chips, the MacBooks' graphics processors don't have their own dedicated memory. The GMA 950 borrows its memory—a minimum of 64MB plus 16MB for startup processes, but sometimes more for 3-D and other graphics-intensive apps—from the system RAM.

The GMA 950 isn't as powerful as the ATI graphics chip with dedicated RAM that comes in the MacBook Pro. People who play 3-D games will definitely notice the difference in performance. Our Unreal Tournament Frame Rate test, for example, showed the MacBooks running at only about 18 frames per second (fps)—not much faster than the 14-inch iBook G4 (14.1 fps), a little slower than the 12-inch PowerBook G4 (21.7 fps), and much slower than the 20-inch iMac Core Duo (56 fps) and 17-inch Mac-

Book Pro (63.1fps). The graphics performance was perfectly adequate, however, for smooth playback of HD video in QuickTime and for adding effects in Motion.









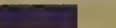
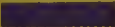






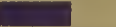

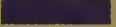



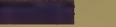












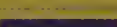
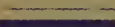

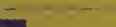







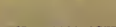
One area where Apple clearly made improvements is in the external graphics connections. You can use the MacBook's mini-DVI port to connect to an external display (with a resolution of up to 1,920 by 1,200 pixels) for spreading your desktop across two monitors. The iBooks could only mirror the built-in display to an external monitor. Apple's removal of this restriction is great for people who need extra screen real estate. Unlike the MacBook Pro, however, the MacBook doesn't include the adapters you need to hook up to external DVI or VGA monitors—each cable is available for \$19.

Designer Looks

The MacBook sports several additional design changes. Compared with the 12-inch PowerPC laptops, the MacBook's case is longer and deeper (to accommodate the larger display) but also thinner and heavier. Its sleekness makes it look like the MacBook Pro's case, while its slightly greater heft makes it feel more solid.

Apple has also updated the keyboard design: the MacBooks have individual, non-tapered keys set into a recessed area that doesn't span the top of the machine. I really enjoy the keyboard and believe that it's superior to the previous design. The keys have a tactile, responsive feel and a subtle,

continues on page 31

	Speedmark 4.5	Adobe Photoshop CS2	Cinema 4D XL 9.5.21	Compressor 2.1	iMovie 6.0.1	iTunes 6.0.4	Unreal Tournament 2004	Finder
	OVERALL SCORE	SUITE	RENDER	MPEG-2 ENCODE	AGED EFFECT	MP3 ENCODE	FRAME RATE	ZIP ARCHIVE
MacBook/1.83GHz	 154	 2:53	 1:25	 4:17	 1:12	 1:37	 17.8	 3:14
MacBook/2GHz	 161	 2:38	 1:13	 4:01	 1:04	 1:26	 17.8	 3:00
MacBook/2GHz (black)	 161	 2:39	 1:13	 4:17	 1:13	 1:32	 17.6	 3:05
12-inch PowerBook G4/1.5GHz	 125	 1:43	 4:16	 8:04	 1:57	 2:14	 21.7	 3:37
14-inch iBook G4/1.42GHz	 107	 1:49	 4:29	 8:29	 2:07	 2:19	 14.1	 4:33
15-inch MacBook Pro/2GHz (May 2006)	 167	 2:46	 1:12	 4:40	 1:11	 1:30	 51.9	 3:15
	>Better	<Better	<Better	<Better	<Better	<Better	>Better	<Better

BEST RESULTS IN BOLD. REFERENCE SYSTEMS IN *ITALICS*. FOR EXPANDED BENCHMARKS, SEE MACWORLD.COM/1478. FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS, SEE MACWORLD.COM/1482.

Speedmark 4.5 scores are relative to those of a 1.25GHz Mac mini, which is assigned a score of 100. Adobe Photoshop, Cinema 4D XL, Compressor, iMovie, iTunes, and Finder scores are in minutes:seconds. All systems were running Mac OS X 10.4.6 with 1GB of RAM, and with processor performance set to Highest in the Energy Saver preference pane when applicable. The Photoshop Suite test is a set of 14 scripted tasks using a 50MB file. Photoshop's memory was set to 70 percent and History was set to Minimum. We recorded how long it took to render a scene in Cinema 4D XL. We used Compressor to encode a 6-minute and 26-second DV file using the DVD: Fastest Encode 120 Minutes – 4:3 setting. In iMovie, we applied the Aged video effect to a 1-minute movie. We converted 45 minutes of AAC audio files to MP3 using iTunes' High Quality setting. We used Unreal Tournament 2004's Antalus Botmatch average-frames-per-second score; we tested at a resolution of 1,024 by 768 pixels at the Maximum setting with both audio and graphics enabled. We created a Zip archive in the Finder from a 1GB folder. To compare Speedmark 4.5 scores for various Mac systems, visit our Apple Hardware Guide at macworld.com/0815.—MACWORLD LAB TESTING BY JAMES GALBRAITH AND JERRY JUNG

17-Inch MacBook Pro

Flagship of Apple’s Portable Fleet Gets Intel Engine

BY HENRY NORR

At first glance, you could easily mistake the 17-inch MacBook Pro for its predecessor, the legendary 17-inch PowerBook G4 (⚡⚡⚡; macworld.com/0947). The MacBook Pro retains the familiar aluminum enclosure and sleek design and has roughly the same dimensions—at 15.4 by 10.4 by 1.0 inches and 6.8 pounds, it’s a shade wider but a tenth of a pound lighter than the 17-inch PowerBook G4.

Inside, however, the new top-of-the-line Apple laptop incorporates not only a completely different processor, but also a slew of other changes you should consider before deciding whether—or when—this is a machine for you.

Guess What’s Inside?

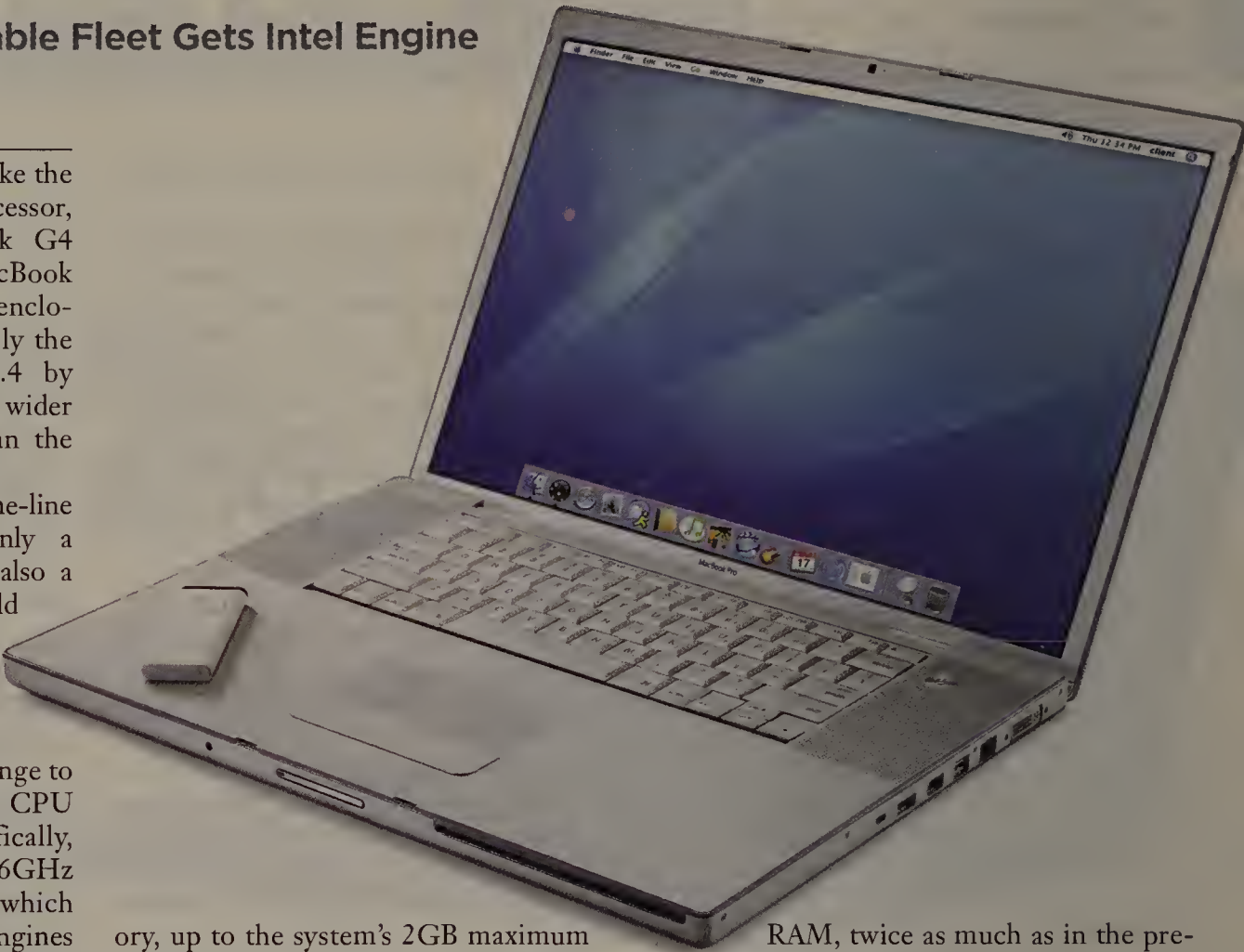
Of course, the most fundamental change to Apple’s flagship portable is the Intel CPU in place of the PowerPC G4. Specifically, the new model incorporates a 2.16GHz version of Intel’s Core Duo chip, which combines two complete processing engines with 2MB of fast Level 2 cache memory on a single sliver of silicon. Feeding the processor via a 667MHz frontside bus is 1GB of DDR2 (double data rate 2) RAM—up from 512MB in the last PowerBook G4 model. Fortunately, a gigabyte now fits on one SO-DIMM module; another slot remains free for additional mem-


ory, up to the system’s 2GB maximum (unchanged from recent PowerBooks).

The machine’s graphics processor, now sitting on a PCI Express bus, is an ATI Mobility Radeon X1600—not the speediest that ATI or Nvidia has to offer, but a definite step up from the last PowerBook’s aging Mobility Radeon 9700. Supporting the chip are 256MB of dedicated video

RAM, twice as much as in the previous model.

What all these technical changes mean to you depends on what software you run. Apple says that the system is “up to five times faster than the PowerBook G4.” You’re not likely to experience that kind of increase, though, unless you run the same carefully selected benchmarks that Apple relies on—or perhaps



	Speedmark 4.5	Adobe Photo-shop CS2	Cinema 4D XL 9.5.21	Compressor 2.1	iMovie 6.0.1	iTunes 6.0.4	Unreal Tournam-ent 2004	Finder
	OVERALL SCORE	SUITE	RENDER	MPEG-2 ENCODE	AGED EFFECT	MP3 ENCODE	FRAME RATE	ZIP ARCHIVE
17-inch MacBook Pro/2.16GHz	193	2:26	1:06	3:59	1:01	1:28	63.1	2:48
13-inch MacBook/2GHz (black)	161	2:39	1:13	4:17	1:13	1:32	17.6	3:05
15-inch MacBook Pro/2GHz (May 2006)	167	2:46	1:12	4:40	1:11	1:30	51.9	3:15
15-inch MacBook Pro/2.16GHz	167	2:32	1:06	4:07	1:06	1:29	58.1	3:06
15-inch PowerBook G4/1.67GHz	131	1:34	3:54	7:32	1:50	2:12	21.4	3:29
20-inch iMac Core Duo/2GHz	217	2:31	1:11	3:22	1:02	1:19	56.0	2:32
Power Mac G5/2GHz (dual-core)	224	1:02	1:07	2:47	0:50	0:57	45.8	2:50
	>Better	<Better	<Better	<Better	<Better	<Better	>Better	<Better

BEST RESULTS IN BOLD. REFERENCE SYSTEMS IN *ITALICS*.

Speedmark 4.5 scores are relative to those of a 1.25GHz Mac mini, which is assigned a score of 100. Adobe Photoshop, Cinema 4D XL, Compressor 2.1, iMovie, iTunes, and Zip Archive scores are in minutes:seconds. All systems were running Mac OS X 10.4.6 with 1GB of RAM, with processor performance set to Highest in the Energy Saver preference pane when applicable. The Photoshop Suite test is a set of 14 scripted tasks using a 50MB file. Photoshop’s memory was set to 70 percent and History was set to Minimum. We recorded how long it took to render a scene in Cinema 4D. We used Compressor to encode a DV file that was 6 minutes and 26 seconds long, using the DVD: Fastest Encode 120 minutes - 4:3 setting. In iMovie, we applied the Aged video effect to a 1-minute movie. We converted 45 minutes of AAC audio files to MP3, using iTunes’ High Quality setting. We used Unreal Tournament 2004’s Antalus Botmatch average-frames-per-second score; we tested at a resolution of 1,024 by 768 pixels at the Maximum setting with both audio and graphics enabled. We created a Zip archive in the Finder from a 1GB folder. To compare Speedmark 4.5 scores for various Mac systems, visit our Apple Hardware Guide at macworld.com/0815. For more information about Speedmark 4.5, visit macworld.com/speedmark.—MACWORLD LAB TESTING BY JAMES GALBRAITH AND JERRY JUNG

if you install Windows XP (under Apple's Boot Camp or Parallels Desktop) and then compare performance to what you used to see with Microsoft's Virtual PC.

In real life, with Mac software, you'll enjoy a welcome improvement in the performance of OS X itself—the Finder feels snappier than it has in years—as well as performance boosts in the iLife '06 suite, in Apple's professional applications (such as Final Cut Studio or Aperture), and in other programs that have been adapted to run directly on the Intel CPU.

Though rarely five times faster, the speed boosts are in many cases significant, especially in programs that can take full advantage of the Core Duo's two processing engines. For example, using Apple's Compressor utility to encode a video that was 6 minutes and 26 seconds long into MPEG-2 format took just under four minutes on the new laptop, compared with more than seven and a half minutes on a 1.67GHz PowerBook G4 (see the benchmark chart).

On the other hand, many important Mac applications aren't yet available in Universal versions. Apple's Rosetta code-translation technology makes it possible to run existing PowerPC programs on the Intel-based Macs, but the translation process slows them down. Among these programs, those that are not particularly processor-intensive—such as Microsoft Office—still feel quite responsive. But when you turn to more demanding applications, the performance penalty for relying on Rosetta is more noticeable.

The key software package at issue here is Adobe's Creative Suite, the bread and butter of many graphics and publishing pros, who make up the primary market for Apple's high-end portables. *Macworld's* scripted test of 14 common operations in Adobe Photoshop CS2 took 2 minutes and 26 seconds to complete on the 17-inch MacBook Pro, compared with 1 minute and 34 seconds on a 1.67GHz PowerBook G4. If you perform processor-intensive tasks only occasionally, you can surely afford that kind of performance penalty. But if you perform them all day long, the price will likely seem steep, especially because you'll be paying it for many months to come. (A Universal version of Adobe Creative Suite isn't expected until the software's next

major update, which is currently scheduled for Spring 2007.)

Apple Giveth

Beyond the fundamental architectural changes that distinguish the 17-inch MacBook Pro, there are others that deserve attention. First, after a long series of cuts that gradually reduced the price of 17-inch PowerBooks from \$3,299 to \$2,499, the price of the new 17-inch laptop model jumps back up to \$2,799.

Of course, with 1GB of RAM now standard, you'll save on memory upgrades. Some of you won't require any additional RAM, and those who do can have Apple add a second gigabyte for \$300, or buy memory from online vendors for less than half that price.

The price of the MacBook Pro also buys an array of enhancements. The screen, for example, delivers the same high resolution (1,680 by 1,050 pixels) as the 17-inch PowerBook, but the new display is noticeably brighter—36 percent brighter, according to Apple. (Apple also offers an optional glossy version of the screen.)

The 17-inch model incorporates all the new features Apple introduced to its laptop line with the 15-inch MacBook Pro (★★★★; macworld.com/0910):

- > a built-in iSight camera.
- > an Apple Remote, an infrared receiver, and Front Row interface software.
- > a MagSafe power connector, which separates easily from the system if you trip over the cord, sparing you from disaster.
- > a relocated and much more effective antenna for AirPort Extreme. (The new high-end laptop finally gets better reception than my humble iBook G4.)

In addition, there's a third USB 2.0 port and a new trackpad option that lets you make a secondary click (in other words, a control-click or a right-click) by putting two fingers on the trackpad as you click the button.

Along with these refinements, you still get the advanced features that made recent 17-inch PowerBooks so popular: a dual-link DVI video-out port, with support for giant monitors such as Apple's 30-inch Cinema HD display; keyboard backlighting and an ambient light sensor; optical-digital and analog-audio input and output; Gigabit Ethernet; and Bluetooth 2.0+EDR (Enhanced Data Rate). The 17-inch model's 5,400-rpm hard drive holds 120GB, the same capacity as the most recent PowerBooks, but it sits on a Serial ATA, rather than an ATA, bus.

Those of you who were distressed about the elimination of FireWire 800 and the adoption of an older, slower SuperDrive in the 15-inch MacBook Pro will be relieved to know that the 17-inch model has both FireWire 400 and 800 ports, as well as a slot-loading 8× SuperDrive with double-layer support.

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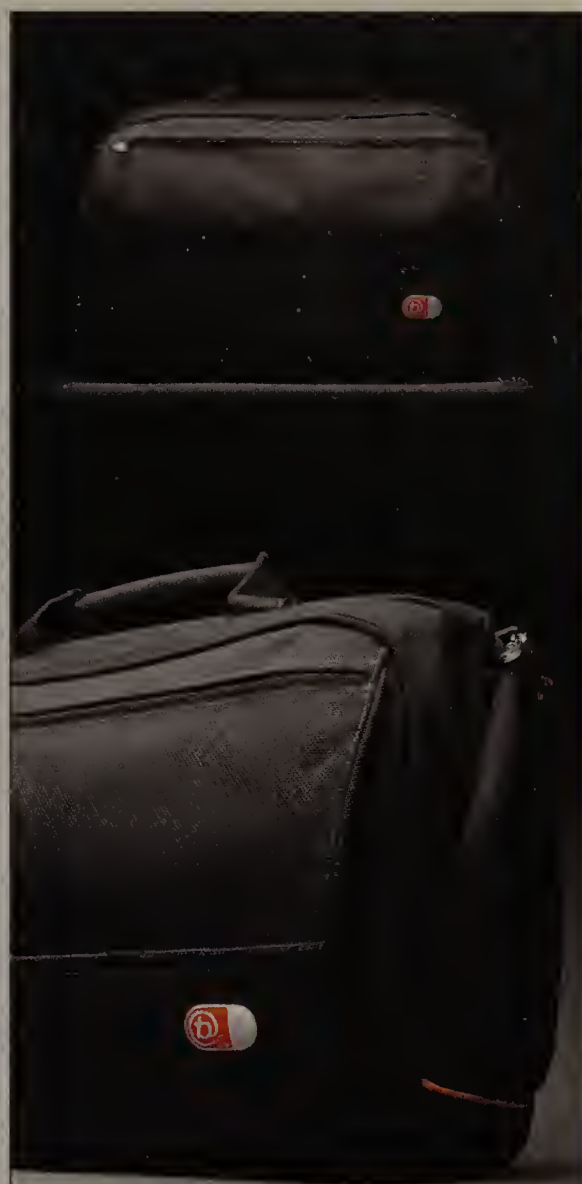
RATING: ★★★★★

PROS: Big, bright, beautiful wide-screen display; excellent performance with Universal software; nearly silent operation; 1GB of RAM now standard; much improved AirPort reception; 8× SuperDrive with double-layer support; FireWire 800; three USB 2.0 ports; built-in iSight; MagSafe power connector.

CONS: Mediocre performance with non-native applications; no internal modem option; no PCMCIA or ExpressCard/54 slots; disappointing battery life.

PRICE: \$2,799 (with 2GB RAM, \$3,099)

COMPANY: Apple Computer, www.apple.com



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REVIEWS

17-inch MacBook Pro

continued from page 27

I am also happy to report that the two 17-inch units I tested (a standard configuration purchased by *Macworld* and an upgraded review unit borrowed from Apple with 2GB of RAM and a 7,200-rpm hard drive) ran in virtual silence, even under a heavy load. Using the Apple loaner in a quiet living room, I could barely detect a soft hum, but I didn't hear any of the whining that plagued some early versions of the 15-inch MacBook Pro. And when it comes to heat dissipation, the new 17-inch model definitely gets hot on the bottom, but no more so than other high-performance laptops.

Apple Taketh Away

A couple of Apple's design decisions did bother me. First, as in the other MacBook models, there's no built-in dial-up modem. Most of you won't miss it, but those of us who travel to less-developed parts of the world or stay in bed-and-breakfasts, for example, do occasionally need dial-up connectivity. Apple offers a \$49 USB modem, but petite as it is, it's another item to keep track of—and possibly lose. I wish Apple would offer an internal modem, at least as a build-to-order option.

Second, I'm sorry that an ExpressCard/34 slot is the only expansion option for the new model; leaving a PCMCIA/CardBus slot or adding a larger ExpressCard/54 slot would have given you access to some interesting options, including new wide-area wireless technologies that aren't yet available in the tiny ExpressCard/34. Besides, many digital photographers, especially professionals, still rely on CompactFlash memory cards, and there's no way to fit a CompactFlash reader into a 34mm slot (something you could do with a larger slot and an adapter).

Last but not least, the system's battery life is disappointing. Apple says that you can expect as many as 5.5 hours per charge, but my tests averaged 2 hours and 39 minutes, less than half of what Apple states. Perversely, the system performed better—by exactly 21 minutes—when I performed the same exercise with Energy Saver set to Normal battery optimization.

Macworld's Buying Advice

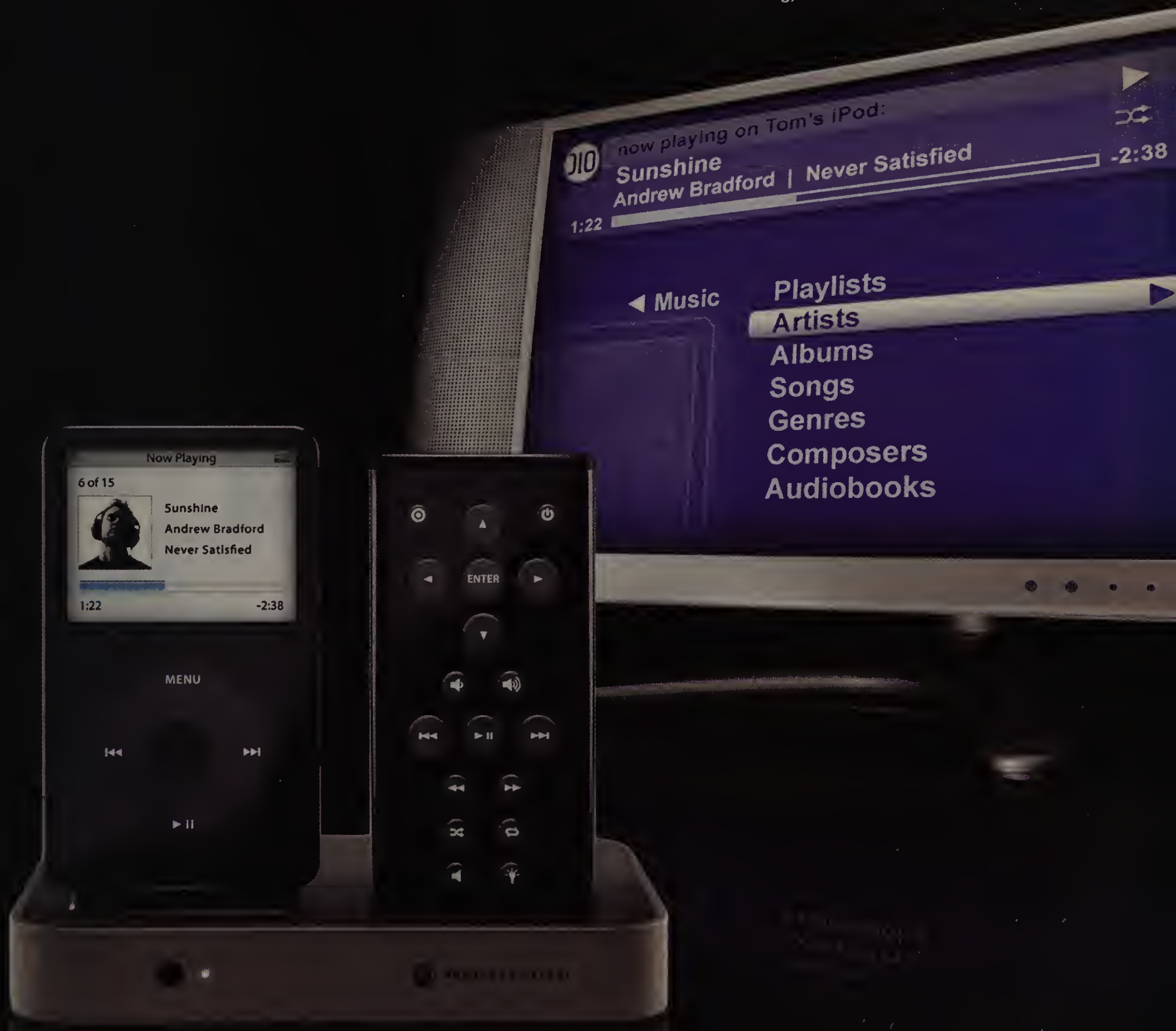
The 17-inch MacBook Pro is a fabulous machine for people who can afford it—and who conclude that its high performance, huge screen, and impressive versatility justify its size and weight. If you make heavy use of Adobe Creative Suite and other applications not yet available in Universal format, you may want to steer clear of the MacBook Pro for now. As for everyone else, Apple's latest 17-inch model once again defines the gold standard for portable computing. □

HENRY NORR is a former editor of *MacWeek* and a former technology columnist for the *San Francisco Chronicle*.



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QuarkXPress 7

Slow Performer's New Features and Improvements Cater to a Limited Audience

BY GALEN GRUMAN

For several years, Adobe InDesign (★★★★½; macworld.com/1365) has been stealing the spotlight from longtime page-layout front-runner QuarkXPress. So the design community has been looking forward to the release of QuarkXPress 7, to see if Quark could reignite its flagship software.

Unfortunately, XPress 7 does not represent a significant leap forward. The new release combines primarily InDesign-inspired additions with some still-evolving original features that have limited appeal for Quark's broad base of print designers. Most of QuarkXPress 7's truly new features target work groups. However, that choice will likely disappoint many designers, especially those who don't work in large teams.

Job Jackets

Perhaps version 7's biggest introduction, *job jackets* let you specify a large group of attributes—from allowable colors to permissible text styles. This in effect adds a preflighting feature to XPress, but the feature is too difficult for the average designer to learn and use.

A job jacket is composed of job tickets, each containing standards that you can apply to a specific layout.

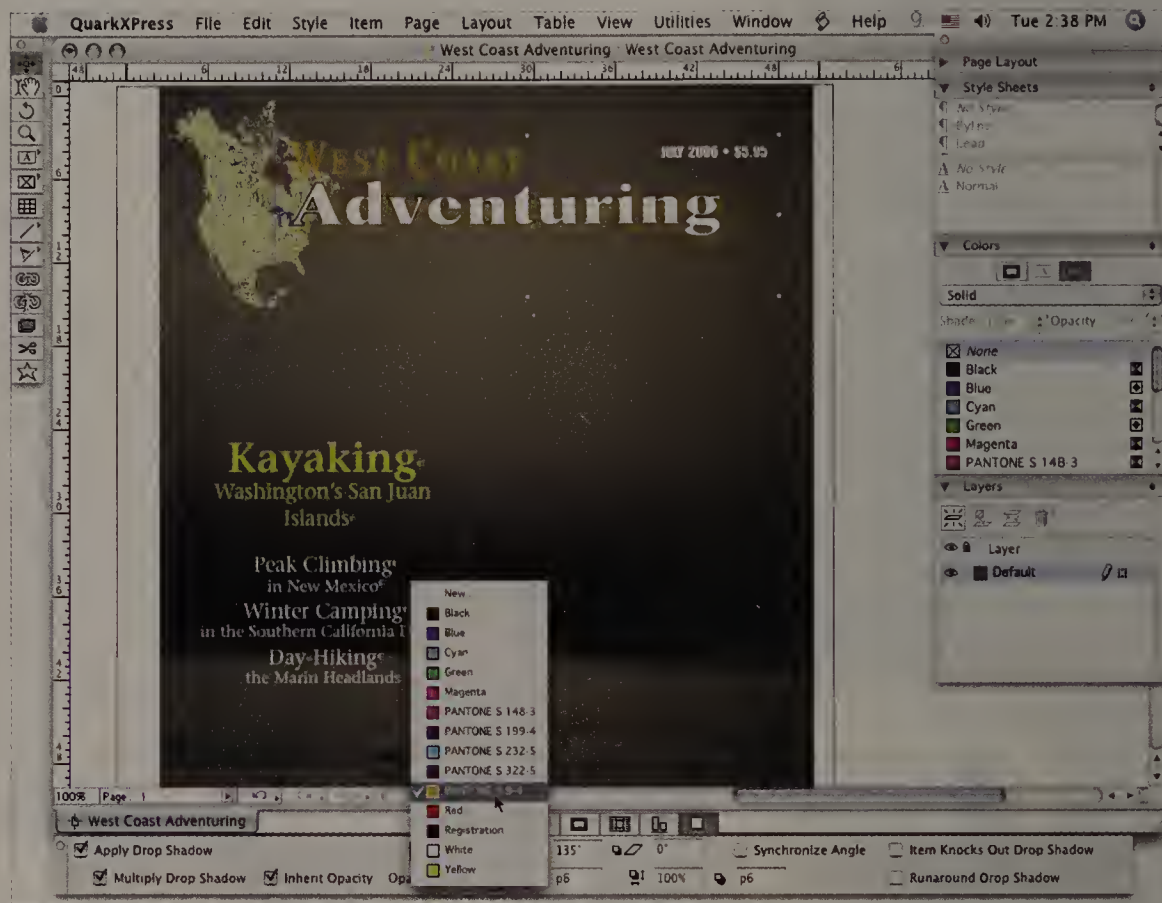
Job tickets can't restrict designers from defining new styles or using forbidden fonts or colors. But by using a *shared* job ticket, a production manager can ensure that any changes in the master ticket apply to all documents using it.

Unfortunately, the process of creating job jackets is unintuitive. Quark acknowledges that the feature works best if you have XPress create a job jacket based on an existing layout, rather than trying to create a job jacket from scratch. But that process is also less than intuitive, because the user interface assumes that you have knowledge of XML data structures. And in fact Quark expects that highly skilled production staff and vendors will likely provide these tickets.

Once Quark showed me how to create job tickets from existing documents (via a complex dialog-box sequence), I found it fairly straightforward to create more—but most users won't get that handholding, and the documentation isn't sufficiently detailed.

Composition Zone

Another major unique addition to XPress 7 is the Composition Zone feature, which lets you specify an area of a layout that you can use in multiple documents, or that another user can work on simultaneously. Think of it as a frame stored in a separate file that an external user can access and manipulate. This feature



Creative Features Features such as transparency and drop shadows expand creative options, such as the duotone background and drop-shadow logo used here. And the enhanced Measurements palette (bottom) makes it easier to access QuarkXPress 7's features without delving into dialog boxes.

reduces the need to move large page files around, but it restricts what each user can do to the separate area. Work groups in which multiple users edit the same document typically need to track changes, which the Composition Zone feature doesn't do.

Other Innovations

QuarkXPress 7 has several other features that most users will appreciate. The synchronization introduced in version 6.0 (★★★★; macworld.com/1414) now manages graphics and shapes, not just text, across a project, so changes to one instance are reflected in all. And XPress now lets you decide whether to synchronize just the content, just the box attributes, or both.

If characters are missing from the current font, the new Font Fallback feature substitutes the same characters in a different font on screen. This allows you to see the text, though you'll still need the missing font to print it correctly. And you can now align objects relative to the page's boundaries, not just to the selected items' boundaries.

XPress also now lets you apply effects filters to alpha channels, so you can adjust an imported image's transparency in many ways.

Catching Up to InDesign

Most of the QuarkXPress 7 additions targeted at designers duplicate capabilities pio-

neered by its rival, Adobe InDesign. In a few cases, XPress improves upon the original.

For example, the central Measurements palette, which provides quick access to a selected object's attributes, now offers many more controls than in previous versions. As you start working with an object, the palette displays only the controls appropriate to the current selection. This contextual approach lets you avoid using dialog boxes for most of your work—a real time-saver. One nice touch unique to XPress is the ability to switch modes in the Measurements palette without having to change tools first.

Other interface enhancements include color outlines to indicate an object's layer, the ability to open several windows for the

continues on page 32

RATING: ★★★

PROS: Includes many design-oriented features such as Unicode transparency and drop shadows; can synchronize text and styles; offers PDF/X export.

CONS: Major new features are production-oriented and have limited utility for most designers; sluggish performance.

PRICE: \$749; upgrade, \$249; Passport edition, \$1,499

OS X COMPATIBILITY: 10.4 (Tiger)

PROCESSOR COMPATIBILITY: PowerPC

COMPANY: Quark, www.quark.com



It's All There The New MacBooks provide the full panoply of ports, including analog and digital input and output.

MacBooks

continued from page 25

reassuring click, instead of the somewhat mushy feel of the detachable keyboards on previous laptops.

One great new feature of the MacBook is that by placing two fingers on the trackpad and then clicking on the trackpad button, you can bring up contextual menus. This is a big improvement over having to use two hands to invoke these menus.

The only real problem I found with the new case design is that the smooth top of the enclosure doesn't extend quite to the edge of the MacBook, so there's a thin, rough bevel between the top and bottom of the case. Though it's thin, the rough edge of the polycarbonate bottom running around the MacBook irritates my palm when I slide my hand around to use the trackpad, and it feels rather sharp if I rest my hand on it.

Multimedia Inside

All MacBook models include Apple's Front Row software and the Apple Remote for controlling audio, slide-show, video, and DVD playback. Front Row worked fairly smoothly on the new MacBook models, although it didn't always activate quickly when I pressed the remote control's Menu button.

The built-in stereo speakers are nothing special: they sound thin, tinny, and too quiet. The MacBooks have analog and digital audio-input and -output ports, so you can connect them to 5.1-channel surround-sound speakers for better audio output. (The 12-inch PowerBook, by comparison, had analog input and output, while the iBook had analog output, but no input.)

Also similar to the MacBook Pro, the MacBook has an iSight video camera built into the top of its display (a first for Apple's low-end laptops). The quality of the camera and microphone is the same as on the other Intel Macs.

Configurations

The MacBook comes in three configurations; all include one FireWire 400 port, two

USB 2.0 ports, built-in AirPort Extreme and Bluetooth 2.0+EDR wireless networking, Gigabit Ethernet, a MagSafe power adapter, a scrolling trackpad, and Sudden Motion Sensor technology. All models ship with 512MB of 667MHz DDR2 SDRAM (PC2-5300) on two SO-DIMMs. Although this may be enough for many users, people with graphics-intensive apps will need more RAM for brisker performance.

Users will find the MacBook's performance on all apps much snappier if they upgrade to 1GB, or even to the maximum of 2GB, of RAM (for more information on the RAM, see our "MacBook FAQs," page 14).

The \$1,099 model comes in the familiar iBook-white case and includes a 60GB 5,400-rpm Serial ATA hard drive, as well as a Combo drive. The \$1,299 model also comes in white, and includes a 60GB hard drive and a 4x SuperDrive. The \$1,499 model comes in matte black (a first for Apple since the Pismo PowerBook G3 released in 2000), and ships with an 80GB hard drive and a 4x SuperDrive.

Battery life was respectable—though not overwhelmingly superior to that of previous models. I could get about 3.5 hours of DVD playback in one sitting without the battery going dead.

Macworld's Buying Advice

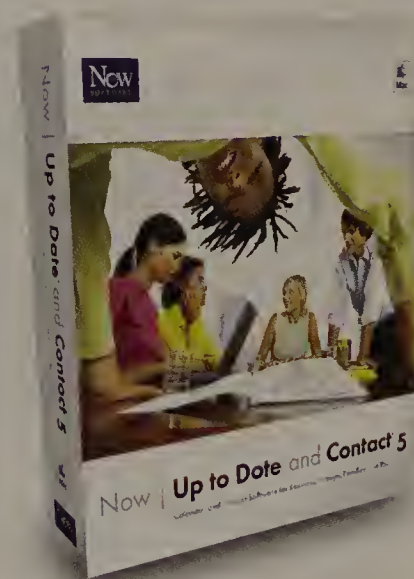
The MacBook is very impressive, not only compared with the iBooks and PowerBook it replaces, but also compared with its Pro siblings. It offers almost everything that people need in a laptop. If you use non-native apps often, and prefer a SuperDrive to a Combo Drive, consider one of the faster models. But if you're a hard-core 3-D gamer, the MacBook is not the Mac for you.

Though from a value perspective, the matte black model isn't as good a deal as the others, the fashionable black color will be enough for some people—those who want something different, own a black iPod, or need a more professional-looking laptop for work—to justify the cost. (For a longer version of this review, go to macworld.com/1478.) □

JONATHAN SEFF is Macworld's senior news editor.

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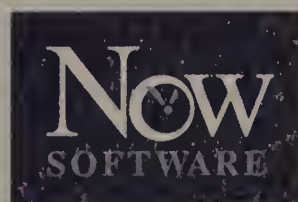
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— Macworld, February 2006

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†Subject to availability at time of drawing.

REVIEWS

QuarkXPress 7

continued from page 30

same document (or, as in XPress’ case to create multiple views and multiple document panes), a lock function that lets you lock the attributes and position of objects independently, control over whether picture attributes such as rotation and scaling are maintained when you substitute a new picture (finally!), a color-proof preview mode, dockable palettes, and palette sets.

XPress 7 also rectifies some longstanding output omissions: it can create PDF/X-compliant files, save PDF and other output settings as reusable styles, and embed fonts in EPS files, and it supports the Unicode format for symbol consistency as documents traverse languages and platforms.

XPress now matches two “ooh-and-aah” InDesign features: transparency and drop shadows. In the case of transparency (which XPress calls *opacity*), the XPress version is better in some key respects.

Typographically, XPress has come up to speed in terms of several key InDesign innovations. XPress now boasts a palette for easy access to special characters, support for OpenType font attributes, a menu option for inserting special spaces, and the ability to manage ligatures in each paragraph style, but XPress still can’t convert consecutive hyphens to em dashes.

XPress still lags behind InDesign in several key areas, including paragraph-based composition, shade styles, based-on master pages (master pages based on other master pages), undo levels, guide management, and optical margin alignment (hanging punctuation).

Slow Performer

QuarkXPress 7 is disappointingly slow compared with the previous version. I tested it on both Intel and PowerPC Macs. On average, it ran about half as fast as version 6.5, and in some tests, the difference was even more dramatic. While the current version of XPress 7 is PowerPC-native, Quark says that it will release a Universal version that runs natively on Intel Macs. That version should be available sometime this summer.

Macworld’s Buying Advice

Quark has added some good features to XPress 7. But the new territories Quark is staking out—especially composition zones and job jackets—will hardly excite the broad design community, and they’re difficult to learn. I was hoping for a true revitalization of this former page-design innovation powerhouse, and this version just doesn’t fulfill that expectation. (For a longer version of this review, go to macworld.com/1447.)

Former *Macworld* editor GALEN GRUMAN, creator of the www.quarkxpresscentral.com site, has coauthored more than a dozen books on QuarkXPress and Adobe InDesign.

School supplies checklist

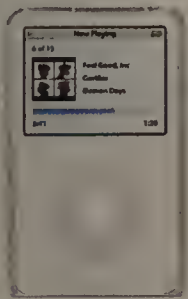
- > MacBook bag
- > iPod case
- > Classroom recorder
- > Speakers



Sportfolio Deluxe for MacBook

from Marware

This sleek, sporty case protects your MacBook and features a fully-functional interior including pockets for the power adapter, extra battery, and even custom pockets for your Remote and iPod. Use it with the accompanying fully-padded shoulder strap and carry it as a folio or briefcase style.



iClear

from Griffin

Clear polycarbonate case for the iPod video. Also available for nano and shuffle.



TuneTalk Stereo

from Belkin

Lets your iPod double as a high-end digital voice recorder.



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More Reviews

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★★★★½ **Apple Remote Desktop 3** ▼ (ten computers, \$299; unlimited number of computers, \$499), from Apple Computer (www.apple.com): Apple's long-awaited update of its remote control and desktop-management software is a massive upgrade. Whether the program is used to

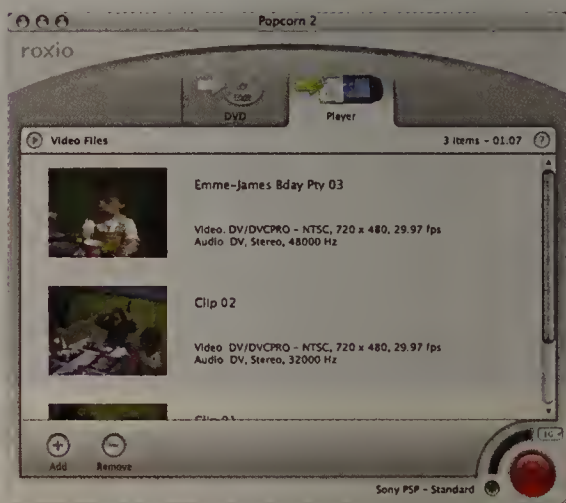


manage a few Macs in a small business or thousands of computers at an educational institution or large corporation, it's ideal for anyone who needs to support multiple computers on a network. Although it's not perfect, version 3 is well worth its cost (macworld.com/1452).

★★★★½ **Popcorn 2** ► (\$50; upgrade, \$30), from Roxio (www.roxio.com): Roxio has rethought Popcorn's function, and the application has found new footing as a video-transcoding program that can convert DVD content to different formats—including those compatible with the video iPod, PSP, video-compatible mobile phones, and DivX handheld video players. You can produce higher-quality video with other video-editing software, but for ease of use, Popcorn 2 is hard to beat (macworld.com/1455).



★★★★½ **Sonicfire Pro 4** ▲ (\$199), from SmartSound (www.smartsound.com): Sonicfire Pro 4, a sound-scoring program, provides an easy way to quickly assemble soundtracks by choosing and manipulating royalty-free music to fit your needs. It's ideal for filmmakers who don't have their own composers (macworld.com/1456).



SAFE AND SECURE MACS

Firewall Apps



★★★★ **DoorStop X Security Suite** (\$80), from Open Door Networks (www.opendoor.com): DoorStop X Security Suite puts a friendlier front end on OS X's built-in firewall, giving you access to features that would otherwise be unavailable—unless you're able to tweak firewall features from Terminal's command-line interface. This application can help keep your Mac safe, as well as teach you more about Internet security (macworld.com/1458).



★★★★ **Norton Personal Firewall 3.0** (\$50), from Symantec (www.symantec.com): Norton Personal Firewall 3.0.3 is a friendly and highly configurable application that protects your computer from unauthorized access by keeping an eye on incoming network traffic. It's easy enough for novices, but powerful enough to protect your system. And it offers a wealth of configuration options (macworld.com/1459).

Folee XL

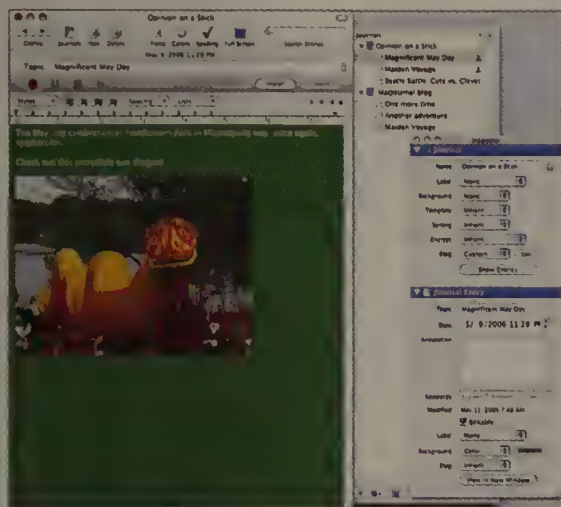
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★★★½ **MacJournal 4** ▲ (\$40; download, \$35; upgrade, \$15), from Mariner Software (www.marinersoftware.com): Enhanced control over the appearance and behavior of journals and entries—as well as new tools for blogging, creating tables, and recording and publishing podcasts—make MacJournal 4 a good upgrade. But spotty implementation of the new features mars these otherwise welcome enhancements (macworld.com/1457).

★★★½ **Axis 207W Network Camera** ▶ (\$299), from Axis Communications (www.axis.com): The Axis 207W wireless network camera can do everything from monitoring a shipping and receiving area to keeping an eye on the backyard. With a built-in Web server and 802.11g wireless capabilities, you can broadcast images from any place where there's a power outlet and a Wi-Fi connection. The camera offers large image sizes and fast frame rates, but if you want just a simple Web cam, the 207W is overkill (macworld.com/1453).



★★★★ **Fontographer 4.7** ▶

(\$349; upgrade from version 4, \$99; upgrade from version 3, \$198), from FontLab (www.fontlab.com): Fontographer—the venerable tool for creating and editing typefaces—is now available in an OS X version, from its new owner, FontLab. Long a favorite tool of graphic designers who need to create original typefaces, Fontographer has added no new features since its last major release. But for nearly any font-editing task you'd want to accomplish—from simple tweaks to creating your own fonts from scratch—Fontographer is still, after 21 years, the quickest and most intuitive way to go (macworld.com/1454).



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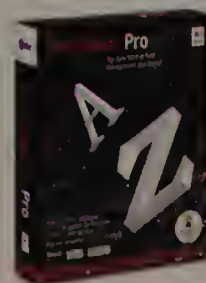
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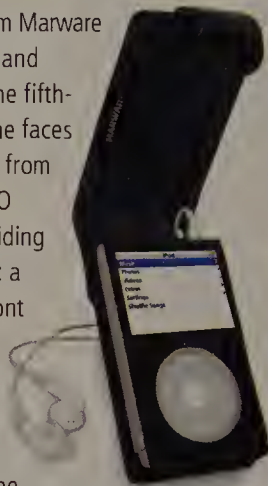
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iPod Gear

For more iPod-related news and product reviews, visit playlistmag.com.

Fifth-Generation iPod Cases

★★★★ CEO Classic (\$35), from Marware (www.marware.com): As more and more cases are released for the fifth-generation (5G) iPod, each one faces the challenge of standing out from the crowd. But Marware's CEO Classic does just that by providing three different configurations: a standard leather case with front and back pieces connected via gray elastic strips on the sides; the standard case with a thick leather piece that covers the Click Wheel; and the standard case and a cover for the entire front, like a traditional flip case. The headphone-jack opening in both lids is small; otherwise, the CEO Classic is quite a good case (macworld.com/1358).



★★★★½ eVo3 (\$35), from iSkin (www.iskin.com): iSkin has been making silicone iPod cases for a



long time, and it really shows in the company's offering for the iPod video. The eVo3 provides total protection for your player and fits snugly, even around the Click Wheel. The screen protector hovers over your iPod's screen, guarding against scratches and distortion and the belt clip rotates, so you can mount your iPod at different angles. You can dock your iPod when it's in the eVo3, but the thick silicone can interfere with your use of the hold switch and the headphone port (macworld.com/1360).

★★★★ Showcase video (\$33), from Contour Design (www.contourcase.com): Contour's Showcase video is a nearly perfect case for the 5G iPod. It provides good protection, is easy to put on and take off, and doesn't sacrifice the iPod's good looks. Like previous Showcase designs, this one features rubber edges with clear plastic front and rear surfaces. Nearly the entire back of the iPod is visible yet protected,



while everything but the iPod's Click Wheel is protected in front. The Showcase video is significantly thinner and lighter than previous models, so the iPod is less protected. But the video's slim profile makes for an acceptable trade-off (macworld.com/1357).

★★★★ The Versa (\$60), from Das Blau (www.dasblau.com): The Versa for 5G iPods is a great variation on the iPod flip case. Like many of the nicer flip cases, the Versa is made of high-quality leather with complementary stitching, and the inside surfaces are covered with stylish fabric. But what sets it apart is that it's specifically designed to let you watch video on your 5G iPod—you flip the case's cover over and it becomes a stand. And unlike similar cases (that also become stands), the Versa lets you choose one of several different angles to view from. If you watch a lot of video on your iPod, this is one of the best cases around (macworld.com/1359).



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


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iPODS

Product	Capacity	Rating	Price	Display	Battery-Life Maximum	Media Supported	More Information
 iPod	30GB	★★★★½	\$299	2.5-inch color	14 hours of music playback, 3 hours of slide shows with music, 2 hours of video playback	music, photos, album art, video	macworld.com/1020
 iPod	60GB	★★★★½	\$399	2.5-inch color	20 hours of music playback, 4 hours of slide shows with music, 3 hours of video playback	music, photos, album art, video	macworld.com/1021
 iPod nano	1GB	★★★★½	\$149	1.5-inch color	14 hours of music playback, 4 hours of slide shows with music	music, photos, album art	macworld.com/1175
 iPod nano	2GB	★★★★½	\$199	1.5-inch color	14 hours of music playback, 4 hours of slide shows with music	music, photos, album art	macworld.com/1022
 iPod nano	4GB	★★★★½	\$249	1.5-inch color	14 hours of music playback, 4 hours of slide shows with music	music, photos, album art	macworld.com/1023
 iPod shuffle	512MB	★★★★½	\$69	N/A	12 hours of music playback	music	macworld.com/0368
 iPod shuffle	1GB	★★★★½	\$99	N/A	12 hours of music playback	music	macworld.com/0369

N/A = not applicable.

NEW: WIRELESS PLAYER

★★★★ SoundBridge

Radio (\$400), from Roku (www.rokulabs.com):

The SoundBridge Radio is a unique product that combines the functionality of a wireless music player, the convenience of an AM/FM table radio, and the practicality of a well-designed alarm clock. Most importantly, it does so in a way that doesn't compromise sound quality. The SoundBridge Radio's biggest problem is its complex interface (macworld.com/1354).



NEW: IPOD SPEAKERS

★★★★½ i-deck

(\$249), from Monitor Audio (www.i-deckusa.com):

Despite its lack of low-end extension, the i-deck is one of the most balanced and natural-sounding iPod speaker systems—it should more than satisfy people who prefer detail and articulation to thump. It's especially well suited to playing jazz and classical music. For this price, you simply won't find another iPod speaker system that sounds this good (macworld.com/1355).



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War Is Hell Call of Duty 2 features improved graphics, impressive AI, and multiplayer capabilities.

FIRST-PERSON SHOOTER

Call of Duty 2

Over the years, I've seen numerous first-person shooters set during World War II. And Aspyr Media's Call of Duty has always stood out, thanks to its combination of gritty realism, challenging game play, and robust multiplayer capabilities. But now the game has been trumped—by its own successor, Call of Duty 2.

Call of Duty 2 builds on the strengths of its forebear while erasing some of the original game's weaknesses. In the game, you assume the identity of an Allied soldier fighting the Nazi war machine. Each of the game's missions is divided into stages that help vary the action. Some missions emphasize stealth while others require aggression; some require fast action while others make you sit back and watch what unfolds before you act. The game also supports cross-platform multiplayer gaming, so you can square off against Windows-using players.

One thing that separates Call of Duty 2 from the original game is its vastly improved artificial intelligence (AI). The computer-controlled soldiers who surround you (both enemies and allies) act pretty realistically.

Call of Duty 2 also has a new graphics engine, which produces some amazing visuals. Add the game's dynamic weather and lighting conditions, and the result is a surprisingly life-like gaming environment. For example, you can use smoke grenades to obscure the battlefield—a handy trick if you have to move yourself or your troops while enemy gunners are aiming for you.

RATING: ★★★★★

PROS: Stunning visuals; great AI; new cross-platform multiplayer capabilities.

CONS: High system requirements.

PRICE: \$50

OS X COMPATIBILITY: 10.3 (Panther), 10.4 (Tiger)

PROCESSOR COMPATIBILITY: Universal

COMPANY: Aspyr Media, www.aspyr.com

The game's music is cinematic in scope. Even the interstitial sequences are very well done. Their documentary style helps give you a sense of time, place, and purpose.

If there's a downside to Call of Duty 2, it's the extraordinary system resources that running the game requires. You'll need a G5 or an Intel-based Mac and a graphics card with at least 64MB of VRAM, as well as 4GB of available hard-disk space. Owners of Mac minis and MacBooks can forget about it—those computers' poky integrated graphics processors put them out of the running. This will be disappointing for some people, but if your machine makes the grade, you'll be rewarded with a fantastic game.

Although Call of Duty 2 realistically portrays the European theater of the Second World War in all of its myriad facets, it's not a gruesome game. (In fact, its ESRB rating is Teen.)

The Bottom Line Call of Duty 2 sets the bar high for World War II-era shooters on the Mac. Just make sure you have the horsepower necessary to run it.

continues

News Feed



WarBirds 2006

iEntertainment Network has announced a new version of WarBirds, its long-running massively multiplayer online World War II combat series. WarBirds 2006 includes a new role-playing system, new interface elements, and support for Intel-powered Macs.

\$600 for PS3

Sony has announced that its PlayStation 3 game console will go on sale this fall for the wallet-busting price of \$600—that's even more expensive than Microsoft's 2005 release of the Xbox 360 console. On the bright side, the PlayStation 3 will also play forthcoming Bluray movies in high definition on HDTV sets.



Virtual Pet Owner

Lost Sock Games and Macgamestore.com have released Puppy Luv: A New Breed. The \$20 game gives you a virtual puppy to train, care for, and show off.

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Reseller

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NEC MultiSync® LCD195VX

- 19" analog and digital LCD
- Contrast ratio: 550:1
- 3-year limited parts, labor and backlight warranty

NEC

\$329⁹⁹
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HP Designjet 110plus nr Printer

- Prints up to 24" paper width
- Print resolution: 1200 x 600 dpi with HP PhotoREt
- Parallel, USB and Ethernet ports



\$1595⁹⁹ CDW 690377
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When Your Child's Online

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version 2.0



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**Site Licenses
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GAME ROOM



PUZZLE

Flip or Flop Home Edition

★★★★; Toybox Games, www.macgamestore.com; \$20

In Toybox Games' Flip or Flop Home Edition, you'll need to turn a small bit of investment capital into a pile of money big enough to save Grandma, who's in trouble with the feds for not paying her taxes. To do that, you'll need to quickly purchase property, renovate it, and resell it at a profit.

The game is a twist on the popular match-three puzzle genre. You renovate

properties by matching three or more of the same item—such as sinks, pieces of wallpaper or flooring, doors, and so on—within a given amount of time. If you make the right renovations, the value of your property goes up. But you'll have to work fast and smart to get the work done. Do everything in time, and you can trade up to a fancier home and start over. You'll work your way from your trailer-park beginnings all the way to mansions.

A bulletin board gives you useful information, such as the number of renovations you must complete, the amount of money you've spent, and the value you've added to your home.

The game offers you hints by highlighting potential matches on the board. But when working at breakneck speed, I found that the game often made mistakes by highlighting matches that were long gone.

The game has great production value and a catchy, whimsical soundtrack. When you quit Flip or Flop and restart, you pick up right where you left off, so the game is a good choice for your commute or downtime at the office (macworld.com/1462).

Recently Reviewed

Quake 4

★★★★; Aspyr Media, www.aspyr.com; \$50

The Mac conversion of Quake 4 has been a long time coming. And if you're a fan of first-person shooters, your patience has paid off. This game has the highest production value of any first-person shooter I've seen since Doom 3, and it offers terrific single-player action.

Quake 4 picks up where the story of Quake 2 left off. You return as a space marine sent to launch an assault on the home world of the Strogg, nasty cybernetic aliens. The game includes top-notch graphics and sound—as well as lots of interstitial sequences that break up the action and keep you involved in the story.

The game's multiplayer elements are OK but not great. There's a relative paucity of maps (where multiplayer games take place), and with a few exceptions, those maps aren't particularly imaginative or well designed. That's not a big

deal for me because I don't spend a lot of time playing against others online, but it does hurt the game's overall replay value. It's also surprising from a series that has been so well

known for its outstanding multiplayer gaming.

Another weak spot is the game's AI. Nonplayer characters and bad guys often stand stupidly in dead ends or take longer than they should to get to where they're going. And all too often the Strogg lie out in the open like statues waiting for you to mow them down.

The game requires a 1.67MHz G4 or faster system, although Aspyr recommends using a G5 or an Intel-based Mac. Aspyr recently released a patch that provides symmetrical multiprocessing support, for faster performance on many multiprocessor systems—particularly dual-core and multiprocessor Power Mac G5s and Core Duo iMacs.

Drawbacks aside, Quake 4 should be on every first-person-shooter enthusiast's must-buy list (macworld.com/1465).





ACTION

Jets'n'Guns

★★★★; Rake in Grass, jng.rakeingrass.com; \$20

Jets'n'Guns, by Rake in Grass, is a remarkable side-scrolling homage to consoles such as the Sega Genesis and the Super Nintendo Entertainment System.

As a space pilot for hire, you've been retained to save the universe from the evil dictator Xoxx and his minions. Xoxx has kidnapped Professor von Hamburger, who was working on the mysterious Quantum Cannon at the time of his abduction. Designed for peaceful purposes, the Quantum Cannon can also be used for evil. It's up to you to liberate the professor, destroy the weapon, and stop Xoxx in his tracks.

Jets'n'Guns has an imaginative and fun style, and it leads you through a variety of different environments, from outer space to dense jungles.

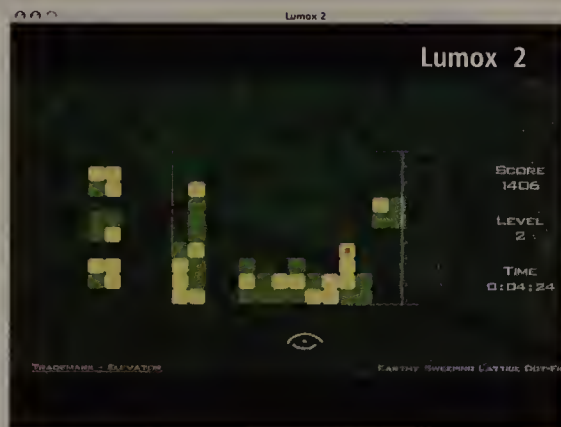
Play is fast and furious, even on the game's easiest level. From the first instant, you're thrust into an action-packed environment where everything in your field of view is trying to destroy you. But you'll have to be strategic about firing: the longer you hold down the fire button, the hotter your weapons run—if you're not careful, they'll start smoking, and you'll have to wait a few moments before you can resume shooting.

You can also take a break from the action to trade in points for upgrades, new weapons, and extra defenses.

One of my favorite features is targeted at malcontents like me. As you blast apart enemy ships, you can target escaping bad guys for extra points. (A Gore option lets you turn off the blood splats.)

In addition to shooting at numerous enemy fighters in the air and water, you can also blast away at platforms, stationary guns, and other objects on the ground, on the walls, on the ceilings, and elsewhere. You can destroy just about everything on the screen except the scrolling

background art. Doing so is cathartic, to say the least, though often hazardous—blowing up a building or a fuel tower can rain hot, fiery death down upon anyone nearby (macworld.com/1463).



PUZZLE

Lumox 2

★★★★; Laser Pirate Squad, www.laserpirate.com; \$10

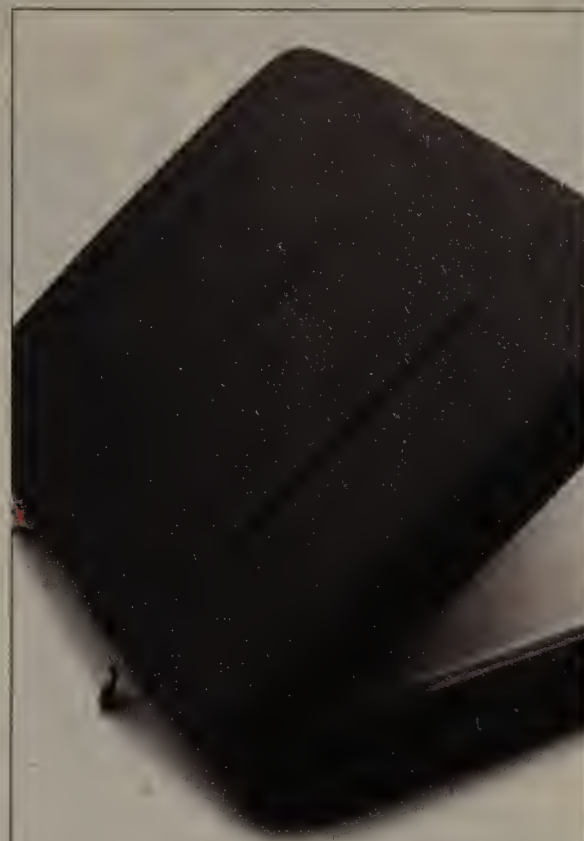
If you've played Tetris or any of its countless variations, you'll find the basic mechanics of Lumox 2, a new puzzle game by Laser Pirate Squad, very familiar.

As blocks of varying sizes and configurations fall from the top of a grid, you must scramble to match four of them in a two-by-two-block square. A beam of electricity continuously grazes the playfield, eliminating successful matches and freeing up board space. Your goal is to keep making matches for as long as possible.

As you play, you'll be lulled into a hypnotic groove, thanks to more than 30 minutes of chill house music crafted by Trademark. The action is synchronized to the music. Backgrounds slowly coalesce and transform before your eyes, as the colors and shapes of the blocks you're trying to match gradually shift and change—sometimes pulsing gently, sometimes shifting color and shimmering slightly.

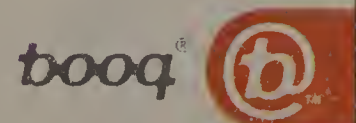
Lumox 2 is breathtaking to look at and very engrossing to play. You can adjust graphics settings to match the capabilities of your Mac. However, I found the game's tempo rather plodding. By level 9 or 10, I was frustrated enough that I started making stupid mistakes and getting distracted. But for \$10, this game doesn't give you much to complain about (macworld.com/1464). □

Senior Editor PETER COHEN hasn't had the pleasure of flipping real estate, but he understands the "flop" part all too well.



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Top Products

YOUR GUIDE TO THE BEST HARDWARE WE'VE TESTED

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Go to www.macworld.com/reviews.

COLOR LASER PRINTER

★★★★ Magicolor
2430 DL (\$499), from
Konica Minolta (www.konicaminolta.com):

The Magicolor 2430 DL is a capable networked color laser printer whose setup needs a bit of finessing. (The toner cartridges are preinstalled, but you need to remove some tape and clips.) However, the printer has a low price, accurate and saturated color prints, and unique features such as PictBridge camera printing. The 2430 DL is a great buy for a home office, a small work group, or anyone who doesn't need PostScript support. Beware: this printer is noisy—you'll definitely notice it in a small home office (macworld.com/0635).



INK-JET PHOTO PRINTER

★★★★½ Stylus
Photo R340
(\$200), from
Epson (www.epson.com):

The Epson Stylus Photo R340 prints the best color photos in its class, and it reproduces shadow detail extremely well. It's a great choice for printing brilliant color photos, with or without the help of your computer. Also, this printer's ability to print to CDs and DVDs extends its usefulness—and its nice big LCD sweetens the deal. There is a downside, though: its black-and-white prints are subpar and can show slight color casts (macworld.com/0948).



FIREWIRE DRIVES

★★★★½ Black Series Triple
Interface, 250GB (\$240),
from Iomega (www.iomega.com):

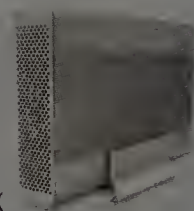
You can't go wrong with its speed, connection options, and low price per gigabyte. This drive can boot OS X via FireWire and includes Retrospect Express (macworld.com/0580).



ALSO RECOMMENDED:

★★★★½ Mercury Elite-AL
Pro 7,200 rpm FireWire
800/400 + USB2, 250GB
(\$230), from OWC (www.macsales.com):

This speedy drive can boot OS X via FireWire and includes Retrospect Express. It also has multiple connection options (macworld.com/0580).





MACS

DESKTOP

Product	Processor	Display	Rating	More Information	Best Price	Speedmark 4.5 Score
	Intel Core Duo/1.83GHz	17 inches	★★★★	macworld.com/1153	\$1,099	202
	Intel Core Duo/2GHz	20 inches	★★★★	macworld.com/1154	\$1,449	214
	Intel Core Duo/1.5GHz	not included	★★★★	macworld.com/0909	\$569	123
	Intel Core Duo/1.66GHz	not included	★★★★	macworld.com/0911	\$764	144
	G5/dual-core 2GHz	not included	★★★★	macworld.com/0942	\$1,699	227
	G5/dual-core 2.3GHz	not included	★★★★	macworld.com/0945	\$2,099	254
	G5/dual-core 2.5GHz	not included	★★★★	macworld.com/1089	\$2,799	272

PORTABLE

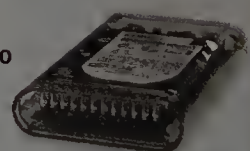
	Intel Core Duo/1.83GHz	13 inches	★★★★½	macworld.com/1449	\$1094	154
	Intel Core Duo/2GHz	13 inches	★★★★½	macworld.com/1450	\$1293	161
	Intel Core Duo/2GHz (black)	13 inches	★★★★½	macworld.com/1451	\$1494	161
	Intel Core Duo/2GHz	15 inches	★★★★	macworld.com/1475	\$1999	167
	Intel Core Duo/2.16GHz	15 inches	★★★★	macworld.com/1476	\$2499	167
	Intel Core Duo/2.16GHz	17 inches	★★★★	macworld.com/1383	\$2688	193

*From a PriceGrabber survey of retailers as of June 9, 2006. *Speedmark 4.5 is Macworld Lab's standard test tool for benchmarking systems running Mac OS X 10.4 (Tiger). For information on Speedmark testing, go to www.macworld.com/speedmark.

PORTABLE DRIVE

★★★★ Mercury On-the-Go
7,200 rpm 8MB, 60GB
(\$250), from OWC (www.macsales.com):

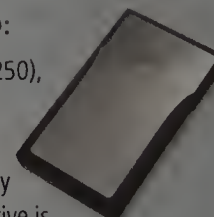
Loaded with useful utilities, this little drive has good connection options and an eye-catching design. It's also fast; it can boot OS X via FireWire and is powered by the FireWire bus. It includes Retrospect Express, other utilities, and a carrying case (macworld.com/0580).



ALSO RECOMMENDED:

★★★★ ComboGB, 60GB (\$250),
from WiebeTech (www.wiebetech.com):

Though it comes at a relatively high cost per gigabyte, this drive is fast and has many connection options. It can boot OS X via FireWire and is powered by the FireWire bus (macworld.com/0580).



★★★★ MiniMax 250GB
(\$250), from Iomega (www.iomega.com):

If you own a Mac mini, you should check out the MiniMax. It fits neatly under the mini, and its integrated USB and FireWire hub makes it a great companion to the littlest Mac (macworld.com/1159).



FLATBED SCANNER

★★★★½ **CanoScan 9950F** (\$400), from Canon (www.canon.com):

The CanoScan 9950F offers improved scan quality and more-intuitive software controls. This model tops its predecessor, the 9900F, in almost every way—resolution, color accuracy, transparency, scan quality, and software interface (macworld.com/0188).

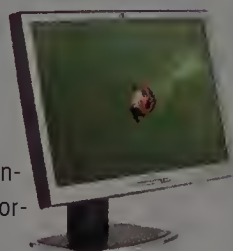


LCD MONITORS

23-INCH DISPLAY

★★★★½ **L2335** (\$1,599), from Hewlett-Packard (www.hp.com):

Along with its outstanding value, analog and digital connectors, ability to pivot to portrait mode, and adjustable height, the L2335 provides excellent video-in options and very good color fidelity and viewing angle (macworld.com/0278).



20-INCH DISPLAY

★★★★½ **MultiSync LCD2070NX** (\$799), from NEC (www.necdisplay.com):

The MultiSync LCD2070NX is great for people who want a moderately priced 20-inch monitor that can display bright, accurate colors. It sports digital and analog inputs, an integrated USB 2.0 hub, and a thin bezel (macworld.com/0636).



17-INCH DISPLAY

★★★★ **SDM-HS75P** (\$450), from Sony (www.sony.com):

Although it's short on bells and whistles—this display doesn't have built-in USB, speakers, or the ability to pivot—the HS75P is a good choice for people with limited desk space who are looking for a bright and shiny, well-designed display. It has very good color fidelity and text quality (macworld.com/0637).



DIGITAL CAMERAS

6-MEGAPIXEL DIGITAL SLR

★★★★½ **EOS Digital Rebel XT** (\$899; with lens, \$999), from Canon (www.canon.com):

Canon defined this market with the original Digital Rebel, and the company keeps its lead with the EOS Digital Rebel XT. The camera's feature set, image quality, and price, combined with the vast assortment of available Canon mount lenses, make it the best choice in the sub-\$1,000 digital-SLR market (macworld.com/0535).



ADVANCED DIGITAL CAMERA

★★★★½ **PowerShot G6** (\$699), from Canon (www.canon.com):

This is a compact and powerful 7.1-megapixel digital camera that should appeal to advanced photographers. It captures very sharp pictures with little noise, and its remote lets you release the shutter, control the zoom, and operate menus (macworld.com/0917).



ALSO RECOMMENDED:

★★★★ **Lumix DMC-FZ30K** (\$700), from Panasonic (www.panasonic.com):

This 8-megapixel camera is well suited to photographers who want manual controls. Its images look great when taken in good light, but noise is a problem at higher ISOs (macworld.com/1157).

DUAL-LAYER DVD BURNER

★★★★ **PX-716UF DVD±R/RW** (\$239), from Plextor (www.plextor.com):

The PX-716UF DVD±R/RW drive features flexible connectivity options; it burns 2.4x-rated dual-layer media at 4x; it has fast 16x burn speeds; and it has the fastest read speeds of the drives we've tested (macworld.com/0313).



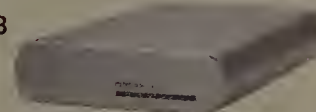
IN THE LAB

Hardware Products We Tested This Month

DESKTOP DRIVE

★★★★ **Rocbit 3B** (\$425), from Rocsecure (www.rocsecure.com):

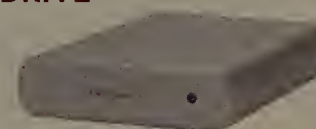
If security is very important to you, the Rocbit 3B with 40-bit encryption is easily worth the extra money it costs, compared with similar desktop drives. Rocsecure's Secure Key fits into a special port on the back of the drive, providing a rock-solid level of security (macworld.com/1442).



PORTABLE DRIVE

★★★★ **Rocbit 2B** (\$230), from Rocsecure (www.rocsecure.com):

The Rocbit 2B's aluminum enclosure is light and won't burden mobile users. Featuring real-time encryption, with no performance penalty, this small but sturdy drive tested 6 to 31 percent faster than the average of three comparable drives (macworld.com/1443).



6.1-MEGAPIXEL DIGITAL SLR

★★★★½ **Samsung Digimax GX-1S** (\$700), from Samsung (www.samsungcamerausa.com):

This entry-level digital SLR is well built, thoughtfully designed, and very small. It delivers perfectly acceptable prints for its target market, with nice color and good contrast. The GX-1S's simple design makes it very easy for beginners to learn to use, and the camera's feature set provides all the options even an intermediate photographer would want. However, the camera's menu system may slow you down (macworld.com/1444).



21-INCH DISPLAY

★★★★½ **NEC MultiSync 2190UXi** (\$1,500), from NEC (www.necdisplay.com):

This display doesn't come cheap, but graphics pros will love its vivid and accurate color, with no perceptible loss of contrast or color shifts at extreme angles. Plus, with its adjustable stand, you won't need to stack ugly risers under the base to raise it to your comfort level (macworld.com/1445).



The camera was tested in conjunction with the PC World Test Center.

Top Products are those we've recently reviewed in a comparison of like products. As new products become available, we will update the list. For longer reviews of these products and for other product recommendations, go to macworld.com/reviews. All prices are as rated. For the best current prices, go to macworld.pricegrabber.com. All products were available as of June 9, 2006.



Software JACKPOT

By Dan Frakes Illustration by Mick Coulas

Finding great software for your Mac can sometimes feel like a gamble. But we're here to help—each month in *Macworld* and every week in the Mac Gems Weblog at macworld.com/macgems, we deal out low-cost

82 of the Best Software Bargains You Can Download Right Now

software that delivers big-time returns.

We call these programs *Mac Gems*, and as we approach the discovery of our 500th gem, it seems appropriate to show off our aces—the very best low-cost Mac software. We're including the 17 gems that have received a ★★★★★ rating, as well as apps with a rating of ★★★★½ or ★★★★ that deserve special recognition. So don't fold your hand—we've got some sure bets for you.

A Note about Our Top Gems

Version numbers are current as of press time. The programs listed here work on Mac OS X 10.4.6, but you should double-check the system requirements on the developers' Web sites to make sure your Mac will run these programs. Universal programs are listed at macworld.com/1446. For full reviews of the gems listed here, check out our complete catalog of Mac Gems at macworld.com/1415.

[Communication Tools]

REMOTE-CONTROL UTILITY

Salling Clicker 3.0.1

Best of the Best Want to control your Mac from across a room? You could buy a dedicated remote, but if you've got a compatible Bluetooth-capable mobile phone or handheld PDA, or a compatible Wi-Fi-equipped handheld, Salling Clicker 3.0.1 (★★★★) lets you use that device as a remote. The software currently supports more than 100 phones and handhelds. With it, you can control Microsoft PowerPoint and Apple Keynote presentations; Apple's iTunes, DVD Player, and iPhoto; and many third-party applications. Via your Mac, you can also control third-party hardware such as Elgato's EyeTV and Slim Devices' Squeezebox. You can even direct the mouse cursor in the Finder. Salling Clicker also provides extensive AppleScript support, as well as a proximity sensor for automating actions when you venture within a certain distance of your Mac.

(\$25; Salling Software, macworld.com/1416)



ADDRESS BOOK SHORTCUT

BuddyPop 2.5.1

BuddyPop 2.5.1 (★★★★½) lets you quickly access your Address Book contacts without making you leave another application to get to them. Simply press a keyboard shortcut, and up pops a translucent window; type in a few letters of an Address Book contact's name and then press return to get a floating window that lists the contact's details. You can click on an e-mail address to open a new message to that person, click on a URL to open the site in your browser, or control-click on an address to copy it to the Clipboard. If you've got a Bluetooth-enabled mobile phone, BuddyPop lets you call any contact by double-clicking on a contact's phone number, and it displays a handy Caller ID pop-up window for incoming calls.

(€10; Tynsoe, macworld.com/0122)

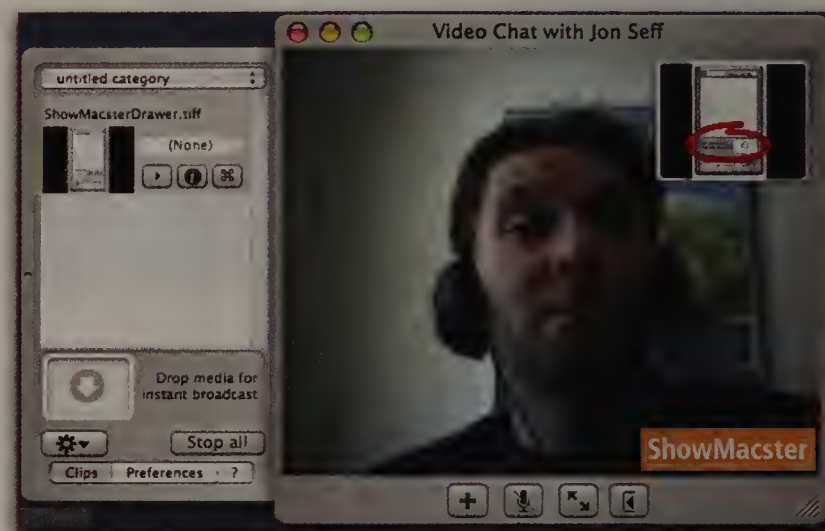
iCHAT RECORDER

Conference Recorder 2.0.1

Although iChat archives your text chats, it doesn't record your audio chats and videoconferences. If you need this functionality, check out Conference Recorder 2.0.1 (★★★★), which

lets you easily record your video and audio with one mouse click. Recordings are automatically saved as QuickTime movie files—what you see in the movie is exactly what you saw during the conference. You select the quality of audio and video in your recordings, and you can opt to record just the audio portion of a video chat. You can even record yourself via iChat's video preview window—great for practicing a presentation or creating a video podcast.

(\$15; Ecamm Network, macworld.com/1384)



VIDEO-CHAT ENHANCER

ShowMacster 1.8.1

Have you ever been in a video chat and wanted to share an image, a movie, or an audio file? You could drag the file into iChat to send it to the other participants in your chat, but they would have to download the file and open it on their own Macs. ShowMacster 1.8.1 (★★★★), however, lets you display or play these files in iChat itself, turning videoconferences into full-blown multimedia presentations. To show an image or play an audio file, just drag the file into the drop zone of the chat window's ShowMacster drawer; it will immediately appear—in place of your mug—in the other participants' video windows. While presenting via ShowMacster, you can still talk to other chat participants. When displaying images, you can use the built-in Sketchboard to draw on them. Best of all, because ShowMacster uses iChat itself to send images, video, and audio, chat participants don't need to be using ShowMacster, just iChat 2 or later.

(€15; Eberhard Rensch, www.showmacster.com)


[Other Sure Bets]

- **Logorrhea 1.3.1** (★★★★; free; Spiny, macworld.com/1387): If you're the type of person who keeps meticulous records of all your iChat sessions, you need Logorrhea. The application lets you browse your iChat logs by user name, date, and time, as well as search for chat sessions by words and phrases.
- **MailTags 1.2.1** (★★★★; payment requested; Indev, macworld.com/1386): This program delivers organizational moxie to your Mail messages by letting you assign keywords to e-mail, for easier search and retrieval. For example, you can use MailTags with Mail's Smart Folders feature to quickly view all messages in a particular category, regardless of where those messages reside. You can also organize messages by project, add notes to messages, set and view a message's priority, and set due dates for responding to messages.

[Enhancers]


PERMISSIONS EDITOR

FileXaminer 2.5.6

 Among the myriad utilities that help you edit file information and permissions, FileXaminer 2.5.6 (★★★★) stands out. In addition to giving you an easy-to-use interface for modifying file permissions and attributes, it provides Super Delete and Force Empty Trash functions—accessible from the application's Dock-icon menu, Finder contextual menus, and within the application—for getting rid of stubborn files. It also has a batch mode for working with multiple files simultaneously; Finder integration (⌘-option-I to get info or ⌘-option-C to copy a file path to the Clipboard); and systemwide support for contextual menus. Other features let you resize and convert images, edit icons, and edit text files as the root user. (\$10; Gideon Softworks, macworld.com/1162)

DEFAULT-APPLICATION SETTER

RCDefaultApp 2.0

 RCDefaultApp 2.0 (★★★★) lets you choose your preferred helper application for each of the main Internet protocols (Web, e-mail, newsgroups, and FTP) and for each URL protocol—from AFP (Apple Filing Protocol) to whois and everything in between. The utility's MIME Types settings let you choose the default app for each kind of MIME content—such as the Windows Media videos and PNG images you encounter on the Web. RCDefaultApp also lets you choose the app used to open files with particular file-name extensions and file types. Unlike similar utilities, RCDefaultApp lets you disable types of files or protocols, providing you with a one-stop solution for customizing default-application preferences. (free; Rubicode, macworld.com/0073)

NEW-DOCUMENT CREATORS

Document Palette 1.0 and NuFile 1.8

One feature that's missing from OS X (though Windows users have long enjoyed a similar feature) is the ability to create a new document in the Finder; instead, you must launch the appropriate app, create a new document, and then save it in the desired folder. Document Palette 1.0 (★★★★½) and NuFile 1.8 (★★★★) skip all that, letting you create a new document in the current Finder folder—via a keyboard shortcut or the Finder's contextual menu, respectively. (Document Palette: \$8; Vertical Eye, macworld.com/1417; NuFile: payment requested; Piti Ongmongkolkul, macworld.com/1418)

FILE MANAGER

Path Finder 4.1.1

Path Finder 4.1.1 (★★★★½) gives you more Finder viewing options, such as tabbed windows, file owner and group columns in list view, and the ability to *sort* in column view. Path Finder's windows include a handy Drop Stack area, which lets

you temporarily store files and folders. You can even view many files with Path Finder's built-in text editor and PDF viewers, and create disk images and compress files directly from Path Finder windows. If you decide that you like using Path Finder more than the Finder itself, you can have Path Finder quit the Finder and take its place. (\$35; Cocoatech, www.cocoatech.com)

DIALOG-BOX ENHANCER

Default Folder X 3.0

Default Folder X 3.0 (★★★★½) adds much-needed improvements to OS X's Open and Save navigation dialog boxes. As the name implies, it lets you assign a default folder for each application. In addition, it makes recently used and favorite files and folders, as well as open Finder windows, easily accessible—while you're in any navigation dialog box, you can click on a Finder window (or choose it from Default Folder X's Windows menu) to immediately switch the dialog box to that directory. (\$35; St. Clair Software, macworld.com/1420)

[Other Sure Bets]

- **GeekTool 2.1.2** (★★★★½; free; Tynsoe, macworld.com/0070): This program allows you to place the output of a Terminal command, the contents of a file, or an image on your desktop.
- **Mouseposé 1.3** (★★★★½; free; Boinx, boinx.com): This presentation tool spotlights the mouse cursor to draw attention to a specific screen area.
- **PrintWindow 3.1.5** (★★★★½; standard version, free; advanced version, \$15; Searchware Solutions, macworld.com/1387): PrintWindow restores the ability to print a Finder window's content while letting you *pick* the content to print.
- **Service Scrubber 1.1.3** (★★★★½; payment requested; Peter Maurer, macworld.com/1388): This utility lets you manage OS X's Services menu.
- **SideTrack 1.4.1** (★★★★½; \$15; Raging Menace, www.ragingmenace.com): SideTrack is a replacement trackpad driver that lets you adjust speed, acceleration, and calibration.
- **TransparentDock 2.3.7** (★★★★½; \$8; Free Range Mac, macworld.com/1392): If you like to customize everything about your Dock, from how it looks to how it behaves, turn to TransparentDock.
- **WindowShade X 4.0.2** (★★★★½; \$10; Unsanity, macworld.com/1419): Return OS 9's Window Shade effect to OS X with WindowShade X.
- **WinSwitch 3.2.1** (★★★★½; free; Wincent Colaiuta, macworld.com/0285): This customization tool lets you choose the appearance of the Fast User Switching menu, assign a keyboard shortcut to the login window, and, most impressive, automatically open files or launch apps when you switch to or from specific accounts.
- **X-Assist 0.7** (★★★★½; free; Peter Li, macworld.com/1393): You can re-create OS 9's Application menu, adding useful features such as a Shortcuts submenu for accessing preference panes.

[Shortcuts]

MENU-SHORTCUT UTILITY

KeyCue 2.0.1

Keyboard shortcuts—such as ⌘-C for Copy—have long been a quick and easy way to access common application actions on the Mac. However, to learn those shortcuts, you have to search the current application's menus to find the desired command and then remember the keyboard shortcut associated with that command. With KeyCue 2.0.1 (★★★★)



installed, holding down the ⌘ key pops up a window summarizing all the shortcuts available in the current application. (You decide how long you need to hold the key down

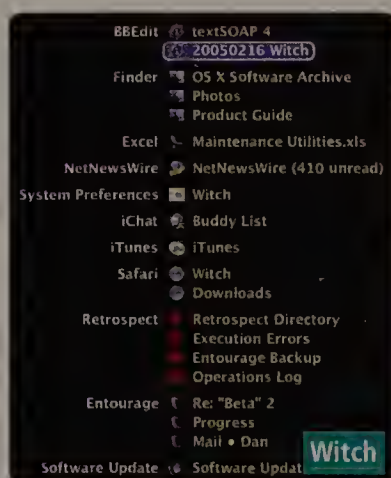
for the summary window to pop up.) It also displays custom menu shortcuts you've defined through OS X's Keyboard & Mouse preference pane and third-party utilities such as MenuMaster. When you press modifier keys, KeyCue highlights the shortcuts that are accessible via that combination of modifiers. It's a great cheat sheet for using and learning keyboard shortcuts.

(\$15; Ergonis, macworld.com/1424)

WINDOW SWITCHER

Witch 1.0.2

OS X lets you switch between windows in the current application by pressing ⌘-` (backtick mark). Unfortunately, not all applications support this shortcut, and even among those that do, there's often no apparent logic to the order of window



switching. Witch 1.0.2 (★★★★) gives you proper window-switching behavior. By pressing its customizable keyboard shortcut, you get an on-screen list of *all* open windows in *all* applications, organized by app. Press the shortcut until you get to the desired window and then release—unlike OS X, Witch shows you exactly which window you'll be switching to. Witch also adds much-requested keyboard shortcuts, such as one that lets you zoom the current window with the press of a key, and one that restricts window switching to minimized, full-size, and other types of windows.

(payment requested; Peter Maurer, macworld.com/1425)

[Other Sure Bets]

- **FastScripts 2.2.9** (★★★★; \$15; Red Sweater Software, macworld.com/1427): Scripters and AppleScript users will love FastScripts, which replaces OS X's own script menu with a more functional version that lets you assign keyboard shortcuts to scripts, understands other scripting languages (such as Perl and Automator), and provides better menu organization.

- **KeyViewer 1.4** (★★★★; free; MacParc, www.macparc.ch): One of the handiest AppleScript-based utilities is KeyViewer, which provides easy access to OS X's Keyboard Viewer without making you venture into System Preferences to enable the Input menu.

- **LiteSwitch X 2.5** (★★★★; \$15; Proteron, www.proteron.com): If you like OS X's ⌘-tab application switcher, then you'll love LiteSwitch X, which improves on it by offering more-intelligent switching. Apps show up in reverse order of recent use, you can perform more actions on apps via the switcher, and you can activate OS 9-like windowing behaviors.

- **MenuPrefs 2.6** (★★★★; \$5; iThink Software, www.ithinksw.com): MenuPrefs lets you put a new menu in your menu bar that lists preference panes. It also lets you choose how to organize the menu.

- **Spark 2.1.1** (★★★★; free; Shadow Lab, macworld.com/1426): For greater keyboard functionality, check out Spark. It lets you create hot-key shortcuts that run AppleScripts, launch applications, open documents, control iTunes, and even execute system actions.

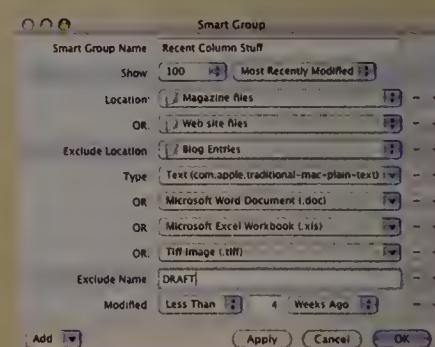
[Spotlight Substitutes]

Tiger's Spotlight search technology is a great feature that helps you find almost anything on your system. However, it's far from perfect: The find-while-you-type approach, in which results are displayed as you type your search string, can be quite annoying, and performing advanced searches can be a pain. Thankfully, two companies have stepped in with search utilities that improve on Spotlight's interface: **MoRU 1.3** (★★★★; \$10 single computer license; Windstorm Software, macworld.com/1432) and **EasyFind 3.9** (★★★★; free; Devon Technologies, macworld.com/1431).

MoRU is an alternative front-end to Spotlight's own index. You build your query—simple or advanced—using MoRU's interface; when you submit the final query, you're actually using Spotlight, so searches are just as quick as Spotlight's. Once you've performed a search, it's saved in MoRU's interface and can be rerun with a single click at any time. EasyFind, on the other hand, works by actually running live searches of your hard drive; it doesn't rely on Spot-

light's index. This can lead to lengthy search times, but it also means that EasyFind works in both OS X 10.3 (Panther) and OS X 10.4 (Tiger).

Which should you use? If you mainly search file names, or if you're using Panther, EasyFind is a great—and free—solution. If you want to use and access the power of your Spotlight index, MoRU is the better choice; although it's not free, it's still quite a bargain.—ROB GRIFFITHS



Quite a Find MoRU puts the power of Spotlight at your fingertips—without requiring that you memorize arcane commands.

[iPod and iTunes Helpers]

ITUNES ENHANCER

Synergy 2.8

Best of the Best There are many iTunes controllers and information displays out there, but none work as well as Synergy 2.8 (★★★★). It provides systemwide hot keys for playback and volume control; a snazzy, translucent informational display (track, artist, album cover, and so on) that fades in and out at the start of each track (or at your command); and optional playback controls in the menu bar. A systemwide menu lets you choose playlists and recent tracks. Synergy will even grab album art from the Internet if it's not already in your library. Support for Growl (a global notification system for OS X) has recently been added, as well as the ability to run AppleScripts whenever a new song plays. (€5; Wincent Colaiuta, synergy.wincent.org)

AUDIO-NETWORKING TOOL

Airfoil 2.0.3

Although iTunes 6's AirTunes technology allows you to stream music playing in iTunes to multiple AirPort Express base stations, it can stream *only* music playing in iTunes. Airfoil 2.0.3 (★★★★½) opens up AirTunes to let you stream *any* audio from *any* application on your Mac. A simple interface lets you choose the audio source—for example, Windows Media Player, Real Player, a Web browser, a Dashboard widget, connected audio devices (line- or mike-in, digital-in, USB audio, and so on), or all audio playing on your Mac—and the destination AirPort Express base stations. You can control the volume level of each Express via Airfoil, or if you prefer, you can set Airfoil's preferences so that it links remote speaker levels to your Mac's volume control. (\$25; Rogue Amoeba, macworld.com/1439)

MUSIC-TAG EDITOR

Media Rage 2.4

When your music collection grows to tens—or hundreds—of gigabytes, organization becomes essential. Media Rage 2.4 (★★★★½) makes it easy to add and edit the metadata for music files in formats as varied as MP3, AAC, Apple Lossless, FLAC, and Ogg Vorbis, as well as tracks purchased from the iTunes Music Store. A suite of tools lets you

quickly add missing info—including album art and lyrics—to multiple files at once. Media Rage's Quick Edit function lets you rapidly make both individual and universal changes to a folder of media files via the use of *pins*—markers that selectively change particular tag data in all the files in the folder you are editing. By setting a pin for certain fields, such as genre or artist name, you can make changes to those fields in all files in one fell swoop, while changing the rest of the fields individually.

(\$30; Chaotic Software, macworld.com/1421)

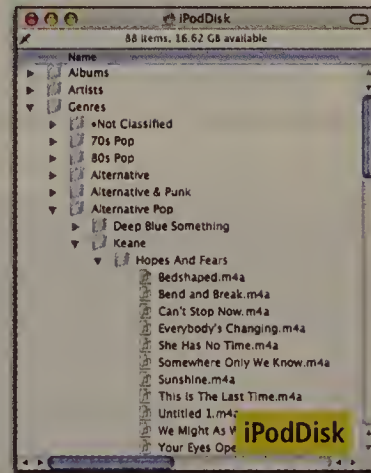
IPOD-TO-ITUNES TRANSFER TOOLS

iPodDisk 1.3 and Senuti 0.33

Although Apple makes it difficult to get music *from* an iPod *to* a Mac, there are times when you may have a legitimate need to do so. If your hard drive crashes and you don't have a backup, you would need to re-rip all your CDs and hope Apple lets you re-download your iTunes Music Store purchases. Thankfully, there are easier solutions: two of the best are iPodDisk 1.3 (★★★★) and Senuti 0.33 (★★★★½). Both let you copy music and iTunes playlists from an iPod to a Mac; the difference is in how they do so. Senuti uses a

familiar, iTunes-like interface, and even lets you preview tracks. iPodDisk mounts your iPod's hard drive in the Finder and lets you browse it by album, artist, genre, and playlist; you can copy files and folders from your iPod to your Mac via drag and drop.

(iPodDisk: free; Isaac Huang, ipoddisk.ourbiti.com; Senuti: free; Whitney Young, macworld.com/0430)



[Podcasting Tools]

Two programs make it easier to create audio content for podcasts: **Cast Easy 1.3.5** (★★★★½; \$20; Cast Easy, www.casteasy.com) and **Podcast Maker 1.2.4** (★★★★; \$30; Potion Factory, www.potionfactory.com).

Both products help with the mundane parts of podcast publishing, such as putting in ID3 tags, uploading a podcast to a Web server, and making sure XML files are configured properly. Cast Easy does a great job of letting you automate this process, and its simplified action screen is easy to use. My preference, though, is Podcast Maker. Its interface puts all your podcasting options at your fingertips and streamlines the creation process. More impressive, Podcast Maker makes it easy to create *enhanced podcasts*—podcasts recorded in Apple's AAC format with chapter breaks that the iPod will recognize. And if your iPod can display photos, Podcast Maker lets you link photos to various points within your podcast, to enhance the finished product with visuals that illustrate what you're talking about.—CYRUS FARIVAR

[Maintenance and Troubleshooting]

CUSTOM INSTALLER

Pacifist 2.0



Have you ever wondered exactly what an installer package installs? Or have you wanted to install just a single file or a subset of files from such a package? If so, Pacifist 2.0 (★★★★) is just what you've been looking for. Drag an installer package onto the Pacifist icon, and the utility presents you with a list of all the files in the package, organized by the target installation directory. You can also see detailed information about each file, including its permissions, size, and file type. This functionality alone can be very helpful for previewing installations, but Pacifist also lets you verify installations and extract or install any file from within a package. Pacifist 2.0 adds the capability to read DMG disk images; .pax, .tar, .tar.gz, and .tgz files; and the ReadMe files and installation scripts inside a package.

(\$20; CharlesSoft, www.charlessoft.com)

DEVICE MONITOR

Peripheral Vision 1.6.3



OS X's System Profiler application is helpful if you want to see what is connected to your Mac at a given moment—but maybe you want to know when devices have connected or disconnected successfully. Peripheral Vision 1.6.3 (★★★★) monitors FireWire, USB, Bluetooth, and network connections, and notifies you when a new device is connected and when a connected device is no longer available. It's a helpful tool for diagnosing problems. You can set up different notifications—visual or audio—for each type of device, as well as for connections and disconnections.

(\$7; Granted Software, www.grantedsw.com)

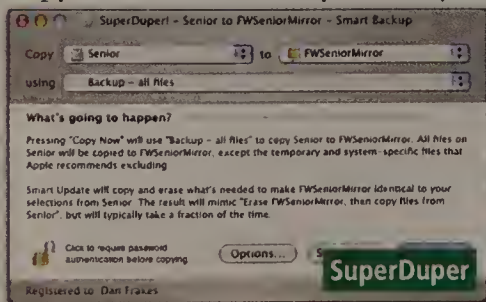
CLONING UTILITIES

Carbon Copy Cloner 2.3 and SuperDuper 2.1



A useful backup approach is a *bootable clone*—an exact copy of your hard drive on another drive—which lets you get back up and running in no time should disaster strike. Unfortunately, thanks to permissions, invisible files, and other issues, you can't just copy an OS X drive via drag and drop. What you need is a cloning utility that understands all of OS X's peculiarities. Carbon Copy Cloner 2.3 (★★★★½) and SuperDuper 2.1 (★★★★) are two of the best. Both make it easy to choose a source drive and a destination drive and then start the copy, and both allow you to synchronize your clone with

changes you made to the original. SuperDuper adds one of the best interfaces I've seen in a backup utility, as well as a number of more-advanced—but still accessible—features



such as easy-to-use scheduling, numerous copy options, and the ability to easily save backup procedures as scripts.

(Carbon Copy Cloner: payment requested; Mike Bombich, macworld.com/0905; Super Duper: \$28; Shirt Pocket, macworld.com/1422)

TWEAKING TOOLS

TinkerTool 3.61 and TinkerTool System 1.51

Many utilities for tweaking hidden settings and performing maintenance let you access OS X settings and features that aren't otherwise easily available. Among these products, TinkerTool 3.61 (★★★★) and TinkerTool System 1.51 (★★★★½) are my favorites. TinkerTool and TinkerTool System provide access to many secret settings—for the Finder, the Dock, Exposé, system appearances, and much more—as well as scores of system-maintenance and -customization options. But developer Marcel Bresink has taken much of the risk out of using these utilities by separating safe actions from potentially risky ones. User-level preference settings are available via TinkerTool (which any user can run), whereas system-level and administrative settings and actions are limited to TinkerTool System (which only an administrator can run).

(TinkerTool, free; Tinker Tool System, €7; both from Marcel Bresink, macworld.com/0885)

[Other Sure Bets]

- **AppleJack 1.4.2** (★★★★; free; The Apotek, macworld.com/1397): You can repair your hard drive, repair permissions, delete cache files, and validate preference files with AppleJack. More important, the app does all of this via a single-user mode at startup.
- **GrandPerspective 0.94** (★★★★; free; Eriban, macworld.com/1398): GrandPerspective lets you see what's taking up most of the space on your hard drive, by providing a visual representation of the space each file occupies.
- **MemoryStick 1.5** (★★★★½; free; Matt Neuburg, macworld.com/1396): MemoryStick lets you know if you're running short on RAM, by displaying your Mac's memory allocation.
- **Memtest 4.13** (★★★★; free; Tony Scaminaci, www.memtestosx.org): Memtest diagnoses defective RAM.
- **Pseudo 1.2.3** (★★★★; \$15; Brian Hill, macworld.com/0093): Pseudo is great for the times you need to launch applications as the root user to edit restricted files.
- **SMARTReporter 2.1.5** (★★★★; free; Julian Mayer, macworld.com/1399): SMARTReporter checks the Self-Monitoring Analysis and Reporting Technology status of all supported drives connected to your Mac and alerts you if there's a problem.
- **WhatSize 10.3.9** (★★★★; free; ID-Design, macworld.com/1400): This program scans a selected drive and provides a size-sorted, hierarchical display of its files and folders.

[Multimedia Tools]

IMAGE EDITOR

Comic Life 1.2.5

Best of the Best All the world's a comic book for Comic Life 1.2.5 (★★★★), which lets you use your own photos as panels in homemade comic strips. The simple interface lets you choose your strip layout; images; and visual elements such as text bubbles and boxes, thought balloons, sound effects (those *pows*, *smacks*, and *thuds* that are often found in comic books). If you've already got an iPhoto album you want to transform into a comic strip, a click of a button brings it into Comic Life and lays it out for you; you just need to add text. When you're done creating, you can print your comic or export it as a Web page, an iPhoto album, or a QuickTime slide show. (Free-verse offers a Deluxe version of Comic Life.) (\$25; Plasq, plasq.com; Deluxe edition, \$30; freeverse.com)



IMAGE CONVERTER

GraphicConverter X 5.9

Sometimes you need more photo-editing functionality than iPhoto provides, but not so much that you're willing to shell out big bucks for Adobe Photoshop. GraphicConverter X 5.9 (★★★★½) is a nice compromise. As its name implies, it's adept at image conversion: it can read 190 graphics formats and export to nearly 80. But GraphicConverter also includes an extensive set of image-editing and drawing tools, a robust image browser, the ability to batch-convert and batch-edit multiple images, AppleScript support, TWAIN scanning, and a slide-show mode. (\$30; Lemke Software, macworld.com/1423)

MULTIMEDIA PLAYER

VLC media player 0.8.5

Picking up where Apple's built-in multimedia technology leaves off, VLC media player 0.8.5 (★★★★½) will be especially welcome if you've ever had problems playing media files your PC friends handle with ease. VLC lets you play video files in formats such as DivX and MPEG-1, -2, and -4 without a hitch, and it offers a pleasing interface, support for playlists, and customizable hot keys. (free; VideoLAN, www.videolan.org)



SPECIAL EFFECTS

Slick Volumes 1-10

Getting bored with iMovie's selection of transitions and effects? Gee Three's Slick Volumes 1-10 (★★★★) are iMovie plug-in packs featuring scores of advanced titles and captions, scene transitions, color- and light-correction tools, video and audio effects, and even clever overlays such as sports scoreboards. Once a volume is installed, the Slick options appear in iMovie's Editing pane, ready for you to apply to your movies just as you would iMovie's own options and effects. (\$30 to \$70 per volume; also available in discount bundles; Gee Three, www.geethree.com)

[Other Sure Bets]

- **Amadeus II 3.8.7** (★★★★½; \$30; HairerSoft, macworld.com/1405): This app for recording and cleaning up cassettes and LPs now supports the MP4, M4A, AAC, and FLAC audio formats.
- **iStopMotion 1.10.1** (★★★★½; \$40; Boinx, www.istopmotion.com): iStopMotion offers stop-motion animation and time-lapse recording features.
- **iWatermark 3.0.7** (★★★★½; \$20; Script Software, macworld.com/1406): When it comes to adding watermarks to photos you own, there's no better tool than iWatermark.
- **QuickImage CM 2.4** (★★★★½; free; Pixtute Studio, macworld.com/1408): QuickImage provides a quick way to view pictures you get via e-mail or download off the Web. Its contextual menu lets you view images in a floating window in the Finder.
- **MacTheRipper 2.6.6** (★★★★; free; Geezerbutt, www.ripdifferent.com): Playing DVDs on your laptop drains battery power. Extend playback time by using this app to rip DVDs to your hard drive.
- **Netflix Freak 2.4.1** (★★★★½; \$15; The Little App Factory, macworld.com/1407): Netflix Freak gives Netflix patrons a better way to manage and search for DVD rentals.

[Internet and Networking]

COLOR-TAG GENERATOR

ColorTagGen 1.0

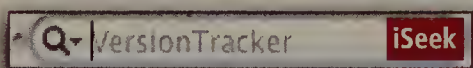
Best of the Best Anyone who's ever muddled around with Web sites is familiar with the hexadecimal (hex) color codes used in HTML and CSS—#FF2F2A for a particular shade of red, for instance. If you don't keep a graphics app such as Adobe Photoshop running all the time, firing it up just to get the hex value for a color is overkill. Enter ColorTagGen 1.0 (★★★★), which displays the RGB and hex-encoded color values for any selected color. Simply choose a color in OS X's Color Picker, and ColorTagGen gives you the color's hex or RGB code in one of several formats. Click on the Copy HTML button, and the code is copied for easy pasting into your favorite HTML-authoring app.

(free; R.A.D. Productions, www.radproductions.net)

INTERNET SEARCH TOOL

iSeek 1.1.0

Best of the Best If you do a lot of Web searching, you need iSeek 1.1.0 (★★★★). It lets you start Web searches from within any application, without taking your fingers off the keyboard. Just press a user-defined keyboard combination, and iSeek's search field appears in the menu bar, ready for your input. Press return to see your search results appear in your Web browser.



You can assign particular sites their own keyboard commands if you

search them frequently. iSeek also automatically finishes previously searched text strings—helpful when you're searching for the same thing on multiple sites.

(\$15; Ambrosia Software, macworld.com/1428)

FILE-SHARING TOOL

DropCopy 1.2

Although connecting two local Macs for the purposes of sharing files is relatively easy, you still have to set up Personal File Sharing and then manually connect from one Mac to the other, providing your name and password when prompted. That's a big hassle if all you want to do is move a few photos. DropCopy 1.2 (★★★★) simplifies the process by letting you quickly send files directly to particular users on other computers via a simple drop zone on your desktop. Drag a file (or files) to the drop zone, and you'll see a list of all computers on your network that are running DropCopy; drag the file onto a user's name to immediately copy that file to their computer.

(free for up to three computers; for larger networks, \$25; 10base-t Interactive, 10base-t.com)

FILE-SHARING CUSTOMIZER

SharePoints 3.5.4

Best of the Best OS X's Personal File Sharing and Windows File Sharing features are handy, but the ability to configure them is limited to a single Start/Stop button. SharePoints 3.5.4

(★★★★) gives you access to all the nuts and bolts. You can set the sharing status of, and toggle guest access to, individual folders and volumes (officially called *shares* or *share points*). You can also create and manage OS X groups, set sharing permissions, change user passwords, and customize the File Sharing servers themselves. For Personal File Sharing, you can toggle logging and Bonjour, and customize greetings and admin access. For Windows File Sharing, you can edit your Mac's workgroup and NetBios names, as well as your IP address or domain name of your WINS server; choose specific files to conceal from Windows users; specify the security method; and even force Home directories to show up in Windows share browsers.

(payment requested; HornWare, www.hornware.com)

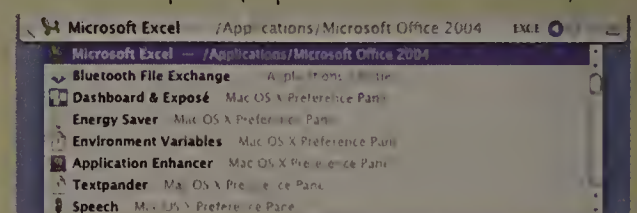
[Other Sure Bets]

- **Bookdog 3.6** (★★★★; \$15; Sheep Systems, macworld.com/0669): Bookdog lets you sort bookmarks stored in Safari, Camino, and Firefox.
- **Bookit 3.7.1** (★★★★; \$12; Everyday Software, macworld.com/1429): Bookit gives you a handy way to organize bookmarks in multiple browsers.
- **NetNewsWire Lite 2.1** (★★★★; free; NewsGator, macworld.com/1412): This scaled-down RSS reader gives you the ability to share RSS subscriptions between Macs.
- **PDF Browser Plugin 2.2.3** (★★★★; free; \$69 for commercial license; Schubert-it, www.schubert-it.com): Expand Safari's PDF-viewing capabilities with multiple layout options and support for annotations, forms, and links.
- **WinShortcutter 2.1** (★★★★; free; Lobotomo Software, macworld.com/1411): Mac users can easily access Windows shortcuts (the Windows version of OS X aliases) with WinShortcutter—ideal for anyone who works in a cross-platform environment.



[Launchers We Love]

If you're tired of loading the Dock with icons just to open applications and files, you're a prime candidate for a launcher—a utility that lets you launch programs, open documents, and access your stored data quickly and efficiently. There are three major Mac players in the launcher segment: **Butler 4.1.2** (★★★★; \$15; Peter Maurer, macworld.com/0808), **LaunchBar 4.1** (★★★★; \$20 to \$39, depending on license; Objective Development, macworld.com/0807), and **Quicksilver 1.0b48** (★★★★; free; Blacktree, macworld.com/0809). All three do similar things in similar ways. You activate the utility via a keyboard combination and then type a few letters of the name of the desired item; the item then appears in a list, allowing you to launch or open it (or perform other actions on it).



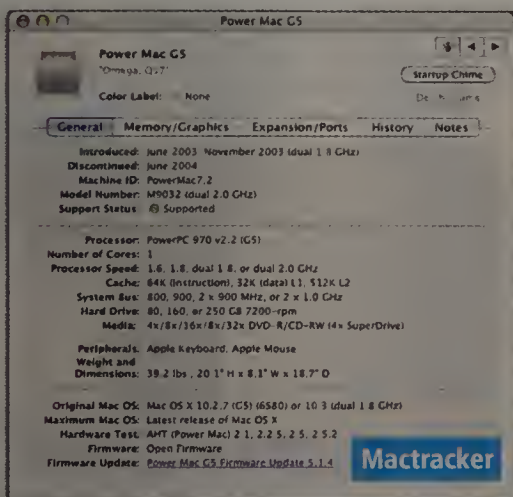
Launch by Letter Type a few letters of the item you want to launch or open, and LaunchBar will open it.

[Work, School, and Play]

MAC DATABASE

Mactracker 4.0.5

Best of the Best If you need to find the specs of a particular Mac model—to buy it, upgrade it, service it, or sell it—don't waste your time wading through the results of a Google search. Instead, download Mactracker 4.0.5 (★★★★), a browsable and searchable database of information on nearly every



Apple product ever made. Each entry in Mactracker is chock-full of more information than you'll ever need to know about that product, down to the most minute detail. You also get an image of the product, a brief description from The Apple Museum

or apple-history.com, and—for computers—an audio demo of the model's startup chime.

(free; Ian Page, www.mactracker.ca)

SCREEN-CAPTURE TOOL

Snapz Pro X 2.0.2

Best of the Best If you're serious about taking screenshots, Snapz Pro X 2.0.2 (★★★★) is the tool to use. You can easily capture an entire screen, objects (singly or in groups), or a selected area, and then save the resulting picture in most common image formats. You can also include borders, drop shadows, and watermarks; create thumbnail icons; and choose color-depth and compression levels. A Live Preview mode lets you see exactly how your screenshot will look, including all the options you've applied, before you actually take it. For people who need animation, Snapz Pro X's movie version can record full-motion video and audio.

(screenshot-only version, \$29; movie version, \$69; Ambrosia Software, macworld.com/0295)

COLLABORATION TOOL

SubEthaEdit 2.5

Best of the Best Having several people working on a document at the same time is usually a recipe for disaster. SubEthaEdit 2.5 (★★★★) makes such collaborative efforts feasible—even enjoyable—by allowing an unlimited number of participants to join a plain-text editing session over the Internet, or on a local network via Apple's Bonjour. Each participant can edit the document simultaneously; each person's contributions are tracked in a different color, and each participant can see what others are doing. Integration with Apple's iChat and Mail apps means that you can chat or e-mail with participants on the side, and a split-screen mode lets you view two sections of your document at once.

(\$35; TheCodingMonkeys, www.codingmonkeys.de)

TYPING UTILITY

TextExpander 1.3.1

If you find yourself frequently typing the same text, TextExpander 1.3.1 (★★★★½; formerly Textpander) can save you hours of work—and your fingers hours of typing—each month. It lets you assign abbreviations to snippets of text; the abbreviations are automatically expanded to the full text snippets when you type them. For example, when I type *homeadd*, TextExpander types my full home address. TextExpander can also insert images or a mix of text and images. TextExpander works systemwide, so your snippets are available in any OS X application that lets you type text.

(\$30; SmileOnMyMac, macworld.com/1430)

TEXT-PROCESSING UTILITY

TextSoap 5

Text isn't always tidy, especially when you get it from e-mail, the Web, or a PDF—it's often littered with odd characters, hard returns, quotation marks, and who knows what else. My favorite way to clean up this text is the aptly named TextSoap (★★★★½). Simply paste your text into the TextSoap window and then select your favorite *cleaner* (a set of rules that tells TextSoap exactly what to do with the text); your text is quickly tidied, and then it's ready to be pasted wherever you like. The available cleaners range from the simple (removing forwarding characters [>] and manipulating case and formatting) to the comprehensive (multiple operations in one click). But you can also create your own custom cleaner.

(Standard, \$29; Deluxe, \$39; unmarked software, www.unmarked.com)

[Other Sure Bets]

- **Business Card Composer 3.2** (★★★★½; \$35; BeLight Software, macworld.com/1409): You can take the guesswork out of creating your own business cards by using Business Card Composer's 100 templates and customizable layout and design features.
- **iFlash 2.7.2** (★★★★½; \$12; Loopware, macworld.com/1410): Like most flash-card software, iFlash lets you arrange and view study aids that you create. But it also has advanced features, such as special testing modes and categories for better organization.
- **PCalc 3.0.3** (★★★★½; \$19; James Thomson, www.pcalc.com): PCalc went four years between updates, but a number of useful additions make this calculator app worth the wait.
- **Physics 101 SE 5.1.1** (★★★★½; \$10; Praeter Software, www.praetersoftware.com): The number of physics formulas included with this program has swelled to more than 125.
- **Solitaire Till Dawn X 1.5** (★★★★½; \$25; Semicolon Software, www.semicolon.com): Since our last review of Solitaire Till Dawn, the number of included games has jumped from 85 to 100.

Senior Editor DAN FRAKES is Macworld's Mac Gems columnist. Senior News Editor JONATHAN SEFF contributed the review for VLC media player, Senior Editor ROB GRIFFITHS wrote the ColorTagGen review, and frequent Macworld contributor MATHEW HONAN reviewed Media Rage. All other reviews were written by Dan Frakes.

Living in a WINDOWS WORLD

How to
Share Files,
Drives, and
Networks
with PCs

Mac OS X may be the greatest operating system in the world, but somehow that news hasn't reached most of the planet. The sad fact is that most of us are surrounded by Windows PCs. And while it's easier than ever to share files and networks with Windows systems, Mac users still often feel like strangers in a strange land.

That's why we've collected a few of our favorite tips for getting along with the Other Side—techniques, hacks, and utilities to help you fit in so seamlessly that your Windows-using colleagues won't even know, much less care, that you're using a Mac.

BY JOHN RIZZO

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ERIC STURDEVANT





SHARING FILES

When it comes to sending files between Macs and PCs, you have to be careful about the names and tools you use.

PROBLEM Windows users can't open the files you send them.

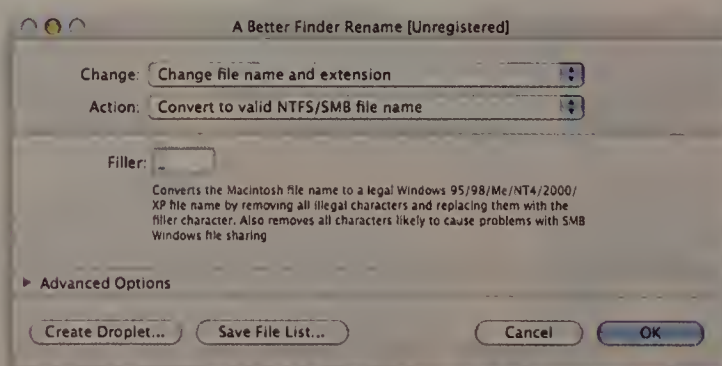
SOLUTION 1 Fix the file name.

Windows is essentially stupid: the only way it knows which application opens a file is to look at the three-character extension at the end of the file's name. When it sees *.doc*, it opens Microsoft Word; when it sees *.xls*, it turns to Microsoft Excel; and so on.

So when you send a file to a Windows user, you have to give the file name the right extension. For starters, set Mac OS X to display file extensions. Select Preferences in the Finder menu, select Advanced, and then select the Show All File Extensions option.

Renaming

Conventions A utility such as A Better Finder Rename makes it easier to rename groups of Mac files using Windows-safe syntax.



The next step is to make sure your files have Windows-legal file names. If you don't follow Windows naming conventions, the recipients might not be able to open your files; in some cases, they won't even be able to see your attachments.

In Windows file names you can't use square brackets ([and]), slashes (/ and \), the equal sign (=), the plus sign (+), angle brackets (< and >), question marks (?), semicolons (;), quotation marks ("), or commas (,). So if you put dates in your file names, use the Windows-legal hyphen (Monthly report 4-30-06.doc) instead of the forward slash (Monthly report 4/30/06.doc). Other no-nos: don't use a space at the beginning or end of a file name, and avoid having more than one dot (period) in it.

If you have a lot of files that you want to rename to conform to these conventions, simplify the job with Sig Software's NameCleaner (\$35; www.sigsoftware.com) and Public Space's A Better Finder Rename (\$20; www.publicspace.net). These utilities can rename and remove illegal characters from batches of files.

SOLUTION 2 Check your encoding.

E-mailing files to Windows users presents its own set of challenges. If the recipients can't open a file you've sent, check your encoding settings.

In Apple's Mail, when you're adding an attachment, select the Send Windows Friendly Attachments option. In Microsoft Entourage, open the Preference pane, select Compose under Mail & News Preferences, and then click on the Encode For menu. Your best option here is Windows (MIME/Base64). While you're there, turn off compression by making sure None is selected in the Compression drop-down menu. (Mail doesn't compress attachments when you elect to make them Windows-friendly.)

PROBLEM You can't open files you receive from Windows users.

SOLUTION Convert Winmail.dat files.

Occasionally, you'll receive an unopenable e-mail attachment named Winmail.dat from one of your Windows friends, and he or she will insist that the attachment was a Word file.

Don't blame your Mac. The fault lies in Exchange Server and Outlook for Windows. When Outlook sends an e-mail message in Rich Text Format over the Internet, Exchange Server sometimes creates an attachment called Winmail.dat, containing the message and some encoding data.

One fix is to download and install TNEF's Enough (ⓧⓧⓧⓧ; macworld.com/1433), a free Mac utility that can extract a Mac-usable file from a Winmail.dat attachment in a few seconds.

If your correspondents frequently send you Winmail.dat files and you find it wearisome to keep extracting them, ask them to turn off RTF in Outlook for Windows. (To do this, they would choose Tools: Options, select the Mail Format tab, specify Plain Text

COMPRESSION FRACTURES

For years now, Mac users have been using the SIT or SITX file-compression formats used by Allume's Stuffit. But Windows can't handle them natively—it prefers the ZIP format. The Finder has been able to deal with ZIP files since OS X 10.3, so if you need to compress files before sending them to PC users, use ZIP. In the Finder, select the file, folder, or group you want to compress, then select



File: Create Archive. To decompress a ZIP archive, double-click on its icon.

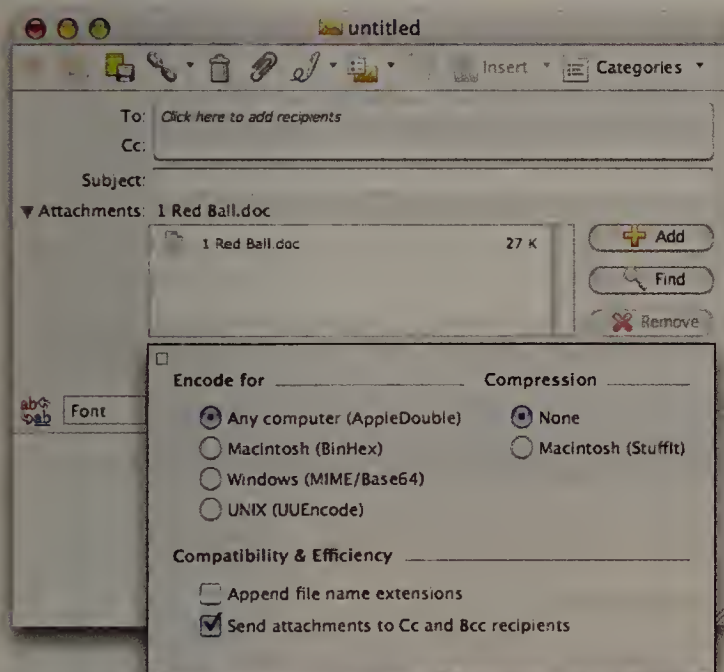
If you must send a SIT or SITX

archive to a Windows user, make sure that person has a copy of Stuffit Expander for Windows (free; www.stuffit.com). If you will be trading compressed files regularly, your Windows friend should get the Windows version of Stuffit Standard (\$25; www.allume.com) or Stuffit Deluxe (ⓂⓂⓂⓂ; macworld.com/1362).

(Stuffit can also create and decompress *encrypted* ZIP archives; Mac OS X cannot.)

If your Windows buddy sends you a self-extracting EXE file, the Mac version of both Stuffit Standard and Stuffit Deluxe can open it.

Finally, much as you might like to send OS X DMG disk images to your Windows pals, it just won't work. Windows uses an entirely different format (ISO) for virtual disks. So avoid DMGs when moving files between Macs and PCs.



Friendly Attachments When you're sending e-mail to Windows users from Entourage, you need to adjust the way it encodes attachments.

in the Send In This Message Format list, and click on OK.) Or just tell them to point their network administrators to the Microsoft Knowledge Base article "How to Prevent the Winmail.dat File from Being Sent to Internet Users" (macworld.com/1434).

PROBLEM **Fonts in your Mac documents don't show up properly when viewed in Windows, or vice versa.**

SOLUTION **Keep fonts simple.**

If your Windows-based recipients don't have the fonts in your document, their PCs will substitute other fonts. This isn't a problem with plain text and other simple documents. But if you've arranged the pages of your document just so, font substitution can ruin your layout.

The easiest fix is to stick with the fonts common to Mac OS X and Windows. These include Arial, Cen-

tury Gothic, Comic Sans MS, Courier, Courier New, Georgia, Tahoma, Times, Times New Roman, Trebuchet MS, Verdana, and Wingdings.

PROBLEM **PowerPoint presentations created on a Mac don't play correctly on PCs.**

SOLUTION 1 **Convert your QuickTime movies to a Windows-friendly format.**

If you're planning to send a PowerPoint file to a Windows user, you should convert any QuickTime movies (MOV files) to AVI or MPEG format (but not MPEG-1) before adding them to the presentation. You can use Apple's QuickTime Pro (\$30; www.quicktime.com); just open the movie, choose File: Export, and pick the desired format.

To make sure PowerPoint presentations play correctly on different platforms, follow these tips, too:

If you have PowerPoint X or earlier, don't use QuickTime transitions: they won't play on Windows. (PowerPoint 2004 doesn't give you the option of using QuickTime transitions.)

If your Windows friends are sending you PowerPoint files, tell them to convert any WMV movies they want to include to AVI or MPEG format before adding them to presentations.

Flash movies in either Mac or Windows presentations won't play when moved to the other platform. You can get a Flash movie to play only by reinserting it into the presentation after you move it.

If you are recording a narration (Slide Show: Record Narration), deselect the Link Narrations option. Otherwise, PowerPoint will save your narration as an AIFF file, which Windows can't play.

SOLUTION 2 **Link Word and Excel tables.**

PowerPoint also has problems displaying embedded Word tables and Excel spreadsheets when you move presentations between platforms. Either redo tables using PowerPoint's native table engine, or create a link to the Word or Excel document.



SHARING DRIVES

If you have lots of files—or just a really big one—that you need to share with a Windows user, you may be better off sharing an entire drive instead.

PROBLEM You want to open Windows-formatted disks on your Mac.

SOLUTION No problem! (Well, almost.)

As of version 10.3 (Panther), OS X can read any hard drives formatted on a PC, as well as any CDs and DVDs. That includes drives that use the FAT (File Allocation Table) and Windows NTFS (New Technology File System) formats.

However, you have to watch out for a couple of annoying problems with the NTFS format. If you have an NTFS drive connected to your Mac at start-

up, Mac OS X will ask if you want to format it. Don't do so unless you want to erase everything on the drive.

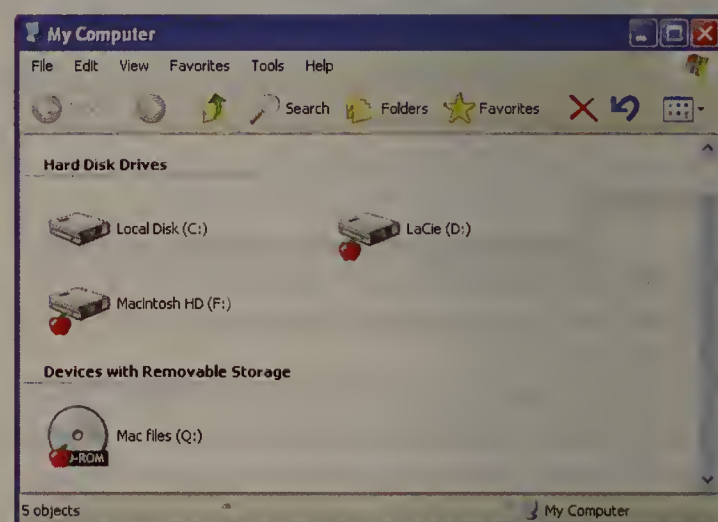
Even worse, OS X can't write to NTFS disks; it can only read them. The only way to write to an NTFS drive from your Mac is to run Windows on the Mac (using Boot Camp or a Windows emulator; see "Running Windows on Your Mac"). You'll have complete access to NTFS from within Windows. On PowerPC Macs, some Windows emulators (including Virtual PC) can also write to an NTFS disk image.

PROBLEM You want to send a disk to a Windows user.

SOLUTION Format it in FAT32.

Windows cannot read the Mac OS-only HFS (Hierarchical File System) and HFS+ formats. One work-around is to reformat the drive you're sending. In Disk Utility, go to the Erase tab's Volume Format pop-up menu and select a format. The best choice here is MS-DOS File System (the PC's FAT32 format). Just don't use Mac OS Extended or any of its variations; that's HFS+. And remember that OS X can't format a drive in NTFS.

If reformatting the drive isn't an option, your Windows friends will have to install software that allows Windows to read Mac-formatted drives. One of the best utilities for this purpose is MediaFour's MacDrive (\$50; www.mediafour.com).



Mac Drives in Windows With Mediafour's MacDrive installed in Windows, Mac-formatted drives look just like PC drives.

DIFFERENT DRIVES, DIFFERENT FORMATS

Format	Used Primarily By	Windows		Mac OS X		Best Use
		Read	Write	Read	Write	
FAT32 (File Allocation Table [32-bit])	Windows	●	●	●	●	Swapping drives back and forth between Macs and PCs.
NTFS (New Technology File System)	Windows	●	●	●	○	Reading a Windows-formatted drive once and not needing to send it back with Mac data.
HFS, HFS+ (Hierarchical File System)	OS X	○	○	●	●	Sharing drives with other Mac systems and with Windows systems that have MacDrive installed.
UFS (Unix File System)	Unix	○	○	●	●	Sharing hard drives with certain Unix systems, but not with Windows.

● = yes. ○ = no.

RUNNING WINDOWS ON YOUR MAC

If exchanging files and drives with your Windows friends doesn't serve all your needs, you can always run Windows and Windows apps on your Mac. These days, you've got all kinds of options for doing so.

On Intel-based Macs, Apple's Boot Camp lets you boot into Windows or OS X, but not both: to switch between operating systems, you must do a full reboot. Parallels Desktop lets you run Windows from within OS X. In either case, because Windows is running on Intel chips, it can feel as snappy on a Mac as it does on a PC.

If you have a PowerPC Mac, Windows will run slower. Microsoft's Virtual PC (★★★★; macworld.com/1115), Lismore Software Systems' Guest PC 1.2 (★★★; macworld.com/0522), and iEmulator.com's

iEmulator trick Windows into thinking your Mac is an Intel-based PC; this takes some processing power. Virtual PC is top dog in terms of speed and features, followed by Guest PC. iEmulator is less expensive but also less advanced.

Mike Kronenberg's Q and OpenOSX's WinTel emulators come in both Intel and PowerPC versions. Naturally, the Intel versions run faster than their PowerPC counterparts—but on each platform, Q and WinTel are slower than their competitors.

Virtual PC is the only product you can buy with Windows preinstalled. The others all require that you also own a copy of Windows. Virtual PC gives you the most options for interacting between Windows and OS X; it even puts a Start menu in the Dock.

DarWine is in a class of its own: it lets you run Windows applications in OS X without actually running Windows. Unfortunately, it's still in the early stages of development and, as its Web site warns, "is not yet suited for mass distribution or general user use."

Lastly, Northstar takes an entirely new approach: Like the Internet remote control service GoToMyPC, it lets you run Windows apps on a remote PC. But unlike GoToMyPC, Northstar supplies the hardware: Windows applications run on Northstar servers and appear on your Mac in the X11 windowing environment (included with Mac OS X 10.3 and later). The \$100 annual subscription gives you access to a library of Windows software; for an extra fee, you can supply your own.

EMULATION, VIRTUALIZATION, AND DUAL-BOOTING

Product	Company	Price	OS Compatibility	Processor Compatibility	Pros	Cons
Boot Camp (beta)	Apple Computer www.apple.com/bootcamp	free	N/A	Intel	Fast; easy installation.	Can't run OS X and Windows at the same time; can't access Mac disk partition from Windows; some keys don't work.
DarWine 0.9.12	OpenDarWin darwine.opendarwin.org/	free	10.3, 10.4	Universal	No need to buy or run Windows.	Still in early stages of development; no tech support.
Guest PC 1.9	Lismore Software Systems www.lismoresystems.com/en/	\$70	10.3, 10.4	PowerPC	Relatively inexpensive; allows copy and pasting or dragging of files between OS X and Windows; supports USB peripherals.	Slower than Virtual PC.
iEmulator 1.7.8	iEmulator.com www.iemulator.com	\$24	10.3, 10.4	PowerPC	Can import PC profiles from Virtual PC 7.	Slower than Virtual PC and Guest PC.
Northstar	True North Technology www.northstaraccess.net	\$100 annually	10.3, 10.4	Universal	An Internet subscription service; runs Windows apps on PowerPC and Intel Macs.	Need connection to Internet to run Windows apps.
Parallels Desktop (beta)	Parallels www.parallels.com	\$80	10.4	Intel	Fast, simultaneous access to OS X and Windows; easy installation; runs Linux.	Can't drag items between OSes; some keys don't work.
Q (beta)	Mike Kronenberg www.kberg.ch/q/	free	10.3, 10.4	Universal	Runs Linux and Windows.	Slow; emulates some hardware; no tech support.
Virtual PC 7	Microsoft www.microsoft.com/mac	\$219 (with Windows XP Home); \$249 (with Windows XP Pro); \$129 (without Windows)	10.2, 10.3, 10.4	PowerPC	Best integration with OS X of any product on either processor; good peripheral support; includes a copy of Windows.	Expensive; won't run Linux.
WinTel	OpenOSX www.openosx.com	\$25	10.4	Universal	Comes with ten open-source operating systems.	Slow; emulates some hardware; doesn't integrate with OS X as well as Virtual PC or Guest PC.

N/A = not applicable.



SHARING NETWORKS

We live in an interconnected world. But sadly, connecting a Mac to a Windows-based network isn't always as straightforward as it should be.

PROBLEM You want to run Windows apps on your Mac, but you don't want to run Windows on it.

SOLUTION Remotely control a Windows PC from your Mac.

If you need to run Windows programs, you could use something like Boot Camp or Parallels Desktop to actually run a copy of Windows on your Mac (see *Running Windows on Your Mac*). But there's an alternative: you can remotely control a Windows PC from your Mac over a local network or the Internet. This allows you to see the Windows interface, run Windows apps, and create documents on the remote PC, all from the comfort of your familiar OS X desktop. You can even save files to either your Mac or the remote PC, and copy and paste between Mac and Windows apps.

If you're willing to spend some money, Netopia's Timbuktu Pro (ⓂⓂⓂⓂ; macworld.com/0934) is the most complete application for remotely controlling a Windows PC from a Mac. It allows you to control several different versions of Windows and control your Mac from a Windows PC. Timbuktu Pro also includes a number of handy collaborative features such as messaging, file sharing, and Voice over IP. The basic package costs \$200 for a bundle containing both Mac and Windows versions.

A free option, Microsoft's Remote Desktop Connection (www.microsoft.com) lets you control a PC from your Mac. However, it works only with Windows XP Professional or a Windows server. The XP Pro machine must have Remote Desktop Services turned on; the Windows server needs to have Terminal Services configured. And Remote Desktop Connection doesn't let you control your Mac from the Windows PC: it's a one-way street.

Another option would be to set up a Virtual Network Computing (VNC) server on the Windows PC and a VNC client on your Mac. Chicken of the VNC (sourceforge.net/projects/cotvnc/) is one of the most popular clients for Mac OS X. But be warned: VNC is not as easy to set up and use as Timbuktu Pro.

Finally, you might consider Web-based remote control. Citrix's GoToMyPC (www.gotomypc.com), a subscription service that costs \$20 a month, lets you access and control a Windows PC from a Mac (but not vice versa) when you're on any computer, anywhere on the Internet.

PROBLEM You want to log in to your office network remotely from a Mac through a Windows-based VPN (Virtual Private Network).

SOLUTION Find the right VPN client.

VPNs let you access a remote network securely across the Internet. Many VPN services are designed primarily for Windows users, but, fortunately, your Mac has a built-in client that works with many of these Windows-friendly VPNs.

To set up the client, you'll first need to ask your network administrator for the name of the VPN server, a user name, and any other details you'll need to log in. You'll also have to find out whether your VPN uses PPTP or L2TP Over IPsec. With that information in hand, open Internet Connect (in the Applications folder) and choose File: New VPN Connection. Click on either PPTP or L2TP Over IPsec (whichever one your network uses) and then click on Continue. In the Configuration pop-up menu, choose Edit Configurations, and then enter the information the network administrator gave you.

Unfortunately, OS X's built-in client doesn't work with all VPNs. If you run into problems, the next step is to download a Mac client from the company that makes your VPN's hardware. For instance, the popular Cisco VPN Client for Mac is free to Cisco customers. If your VPN doesn't have a Mac client, or if you need to access many different VPN systems, you can try a third-party universal VPN client such as VPN Tracker, from Equinux (\$90; www.equinux.com).

Note that new versions of OS X frequently break VPN client software. Before you upgrade to Leopard (Mac OS X 10.5) later this year or early next year, you'll want to check the Web for reports about your VPN client.

PROBLEM You want to view a Web site that's designed for a Windows browser.

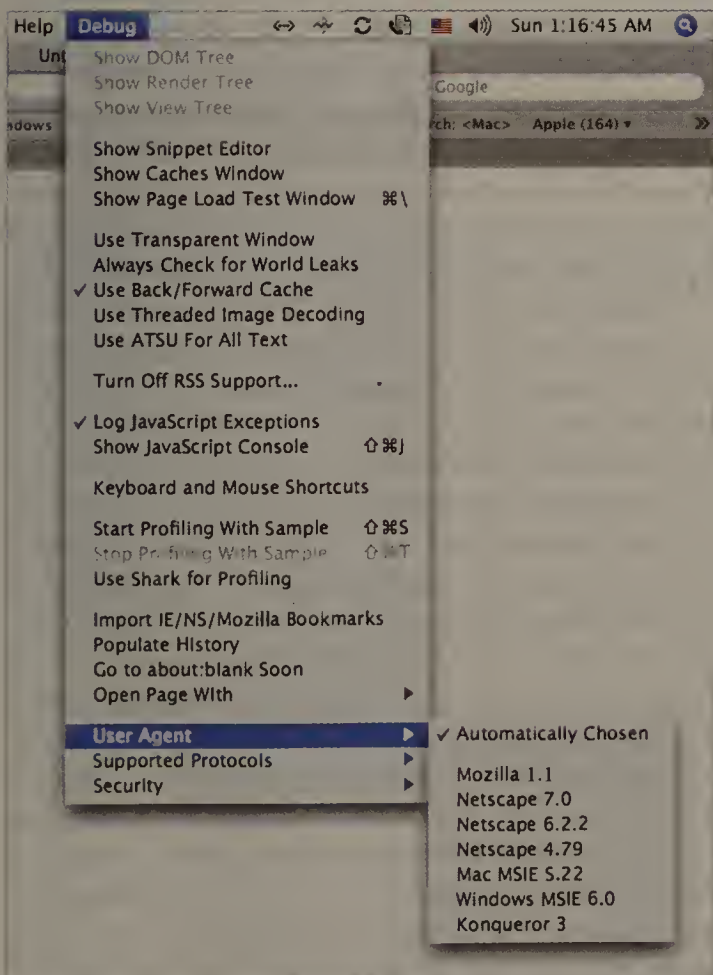
SOLUTION Try another browser.

Though the Web is supposed to be platform-agnostic, some sites work better in Windows than on the Mac. You may still run into the occasional page that doesn't work quite right. Maybe it doesn't display properly or has a pop-up movie that won't play. Whatever the problem, you have a couple of options.

First, try a different browser. Internet Explorer (IE; www.microsoft.com/mac/) is a good place to start—as long as you already have a copy installed; Microsoft no longer offers it as a download. (You can still, however, find it elsewhere online.) You can also try Mozilla's Firefox (www.mozilla.com/firefox/) and Camino (www.caminobrowser.org).

If that doesn't help, try tweaking your current browser so Web sites think it's something else. In Safari, use the Debug menu: In Terminal, enter `defaults write com.apple.Safari IncludeDebugMenu 1` at the prompt. When you relaunch Safari, open the new Debug menu and select User Agent, which will display a list of browsers. Choose Windows MSIE 6.0. That may trick Windows-friendly sites into thinking you're one of Them.

Some businesses have internal Web pages that download Windows apps to your browser. If you work at such an organization, no Mac browser will work. You need to run Windows on your Mac, and then fire up IE for Windows.



Browser Spoofing The User Agent option in Safari's Debug menu can disguise your Mac status from Windows-oriented Web sites.

PROBLEM You want to connect your Mac to a Windows network that uses Microsoft Active Directory.

SOLUTION Help your IT people.

Big Windows networks often use Microsoft Active Directory (AD) to manage user accounts and provide security, among other things. AD enables administrators to put users' home folders on a server, rather than on their local machines, and can give users access to all of a network's resources through a single log-on.

With each new version of OS X, Apple has improved the Mac's compatibility with AD. But it's still one of the thorniest cross-platform issues. Getting connected to AD is definitely not a do-it-yourself project; you'll need to get your network administrator involved. But you can't leave it up solely to your admin; he or she may not even know it's possible to add a Mac to AD. Here's how you can help.

First, point your network administrator to some online information resources:

> Apple has an article that tells you how to use the Directory Access utility to use AD home directories (macworld.com/1466).

> Troubleshooting AD problems is often more difficult than setting it up. MacWindows.com includes descriptions of known problems and their fixes (www.macwindows.com/AD.html). (Disclaimer: I run the MacWindows Web site.)

> If your network also includes some Linux machines, Big Nerd Ranch has an article called Mac OS/Linux/Windows Single Sign-On that could help (macworld.com/1467).

Another option is to go with third-party software, which can give you or the network admin features that you won't get from OS X. The downside is that you have to pay for the software. Luckily, there are two that offer free trials:

> ADmitMac (www.admitmac.com), from Thursby Software, installs on OS X and doesn't require changes to any server. It enables the Mac to connect securely to the AD domain and avoids the SMB file-sharing problems that can plague OS X-AD connections.

> Centrify's DirectControl (www.centrify.com) is aimed at system administrators who want to integrate not only Mac OS, but also Linux and Unix, into AD. DirectControl includes software that installs on client machines, as well as administration tools that run on Windows PCs.

Finally, if you use OS X's built-in SMB client to access some Windows volumes on a network, Mac OS may inadvertently leave behind some files that are invisible to you but quite visible—and potentially irritating—to your Windows-using network neighbors. To avoid this problem, try using ZeroOne Twenty's BlueHarvest (macworld.com/1477).

JOHN RIZZO is the publisher of MacWindows.com.

How to Do a To-Do List

Everyone has a to-do list. And everyone has a favorite way to handle it, from index cards to computer-based project managers. No matter how you manage yours, your Mac can help. Here are some to-do list tips for Apple's iCal, Microsoft's Entourage, and plain old text files. (Note: the work of productivity guru David Allen strongly influenced many of these ideas. Check out his Web site at www.davidco.com.)

Apple iCal

iCal is easy to use, free, and ubiquitous (every Mac user has it). But its to-do tools aren't stellar. Still, if you only need to keep track of tasks for a few projects at a time, iCal can do the trick nicely.

Group Therapy When it comes to maintaining to-do lists, iCal's best features are its multiple calendars and customizable calendar groups. If you use those calendars to categorize to-do items, chances are you do so based on projects. But you might consider using your calendars for what David Allen calls "contexts"—grouping to-do items based on the tools you'll need to do them or the locations where you must perform them (see "What Everyone Should Do").

So, for example, you could create an @web calendar (File: New Calendar) for all your browser-based tasks. Next time you're browsing the Web, you can select just that calendar in iCal's Calendars sidebar, see all your browser-based tasks, then knock them off all at once. You could do the same with calendars such as @computer and @phone (see "To-Do Tools").

You can collect related calendars into customized groups. So you might create an Office group (File: New Calendar Group), in which you store all the calendars for your work agendas, or a Home group for all the chores you need to do back at home.

Alarming Productivity If you've assigned a due date to a task, you can create an alarm for it. Each task's Info window includes an alarm drop-down menu,

which lets you pick the kind of alarm you want to run—Message, Message With Sound, Email, Open File, Run Script—and when you want to receive it.

While most of us rely on that first option, the simple pop-up message, these alerts can do much, much more. For example, if you're going to be away from your office Mac when an alarm is set to go off, you can have an e-mail message sent to your home Mac or laptop. Select Email from the Alarm drop-down menu. In the address field, enter your home or mobile e-mail address, and specify when you want the message sent. Remember that your Mac must be on—not asleep—and connected to the Internet to send the alarm.

Microsoft Entourage

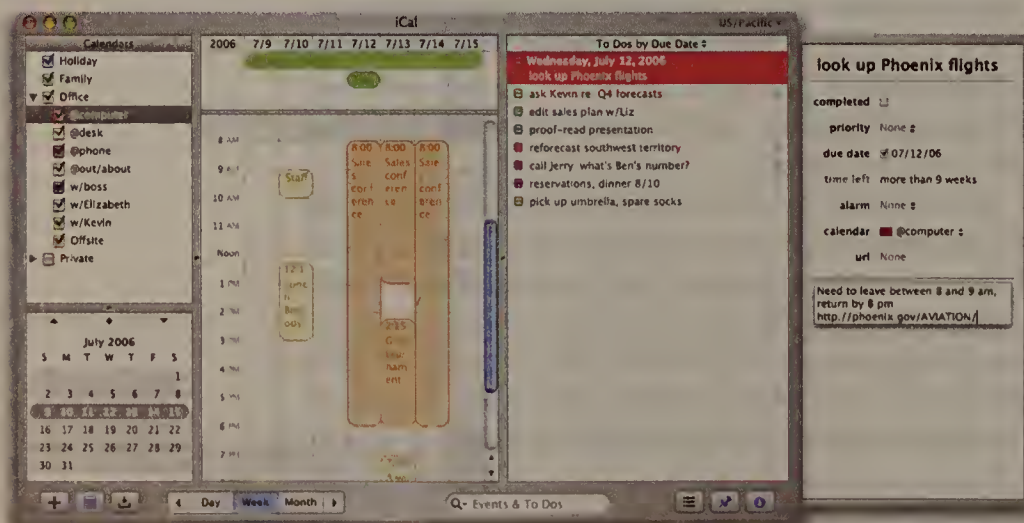
Entourage is a love-it-or-hate-it to-do manager. It's overkill for many people, and the fact that it comes from Microsoft puts off some Apple die hards. But its Project Center, easy file attachments, and all-in-one functionality make it an excellent to-do tool, particularly for corporate users with many projects to manage.

Custom Views The custom view is Entourage's best to-do weapon. Like the Finder's smart folders, iTunes' smart playlists, and iPhoto's smart albums, custom views let you create live lists of tasks that match specific criteria.

For example, to create a quick list of all your overdue tasks, select File: New: Custom View. Give the list a name, deselect all item types except for Tasks, then select Is Overdue from the Criteria drop-down menu. If you find yourself repeatedly searching your to-do list by one criterion or another, you're best off capturing that search as a custom view (see "Smart Views").

Linking to Files Entourage has one wonderful little feature that few users seem to know about. You can create a link to any document or folder on your hard drive from any Entourage task (or e-mail message or calendar item, for that matter). Let's say you have a to-do item, "Call Bob about project." You can create a link from that task to all the documents you'll want to cover in that call by clicking on the Links icon in the task's toolbar and then selecting Link To Existing:

To-Do Tools In iCal, you can create custom calendars to collect tasks that use the same tool—your phone, your Mac, and so on.



File. When it's time to make the call, open up the task, and all the documents you need will be right there.

Plain Old Text

Many users (particularly the geeky ones) eschew dedicated to-do tools like iCal and Entourage in favor of plain-text files. A text file doesn't give you the bells and whistles that a proprietary program does. But it's easy to use, editable in a wide variety of applications, and eminently portable via PDA, e-mail, and the Web.

Use Codes Plain-text files don't let you assign fancy colors, labels, and date fields to tasks, the way GUI apps do. But you can create your own task-tagging system by using only the ASCII characters available in plain text.

Take, for example, this line from a to-do list:

[] - MDM - 2006-10-01 - Send Judy sketches for new shopping cart design

The brackets ([and]) indicate that this is an open to-do item; putting an x inside them ([x]) could indicate a completed task. Most text editors and other apps that open plain-text files have some sort of sorting tool; you can then sort your to-do list alphabetically, which will put all the empty brackets ahead of the filled ones so you can see all your open tasks.

You can also use other line-opening codes: a set of parentheses could indicate deliverables you're waiting on from someone else, exclamation points might indicate high-priority items, and question marks might tell you which items require answers. You may prefer to start each task with its due date so you can sort by that criterion. It all depends on how you like to work.

After those opening codes, you can enter other details—in this case, the initials of whoever's respon-

Edit Custom View

Name: Get cracking!

Item Types

☒ All Items ☐ Messages ☐ Contacts ☐ Calendar events ☒ Tasks ☐ Notes

This view will be available in the Tasks list.

Location

All Folders

Criteria

+ Add Criterion - Remove Criterion Match if any criteria are met

Due Date Is today Highest

Priority Is Highest

Is incomplete

Cancel OK

sible for the item (you or someone on your team), its due date, and a description. You can then use your task editor's search tools to find all items due on a certain date. Some text editors—including Bare Bones Software's BBEdit and TextWrangler—will show you all the lines on which a search term appears. If your text editor does that, searching for the initials of a given team member will reveal all the items assigned to him or her.

The Final Word

It doesn't really matter which tool you use to keep track of your to-do list, as long as you choose one that fits your organizational style, apply some smarts to how you use it, and let your Mac keep things simple. □

MERLIN MANN is a writer and the proprietor of the 43Folders blog (www.43folders.com).

What Everyone Should Do

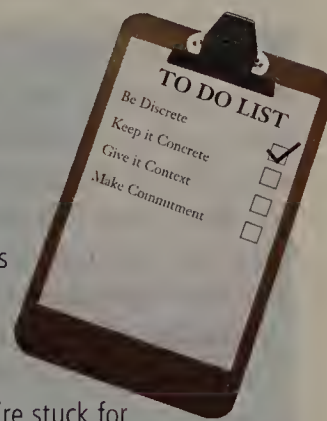
No matter what tool you rely on to keep track of your tasks, following a few general principles will maximize the usefulness of your to-do list.

Be Discrete Make sure the tasks you've added to your list represent single, discrete activities that you can accomplish in 5 to 20 minutes each. If they're going to take longer than that, try breaking them down into smaller chunks. In other words, "Plan vacation" isn't a good task (that's a project). Break it down into items such as "Check Web rates for flights to Seattle," "Ask the boss for a week off in December," and so on.

Keep It Concrete Avoid mushy verbs and try to phrase your to-dos in concrete, physical terms: "Brainstorm report" isn't nearly as effective as "Draft five ideas for report theme" or "Write 500-word introduction to report." If you have to come up with ideas about a topic, you may find that your best brainstorming happens in the course of other, more concrete actions, such as writing or discussing. So try to anchor your to-do items with those activities, rather than something like "Think about X."

Give It Context It makes sense to divide your to-do list according to where you need to be and which tools you need to complete a task. Keeping an "At the office" list separate from your "Errands around town" list only makes sense. For instance, if you're stuck for an hour someplace where you can only make calls from your phone, then you can go ahead and skip items that require a laptop (@computer), a lawnmower (@chores), or your boss (@boss-agenda).

Make a Commitment Apart from never completing any of the items on your to-do list, the biggest mistake you can make is to use the list as an undifferentiated dumping ground for everything you might do someday. Filling your list with fantastic plans or spur-of-the-moment thoughts leads to procrastination, indecision, and inaction. Think of your to-do list as hallowed ground, where you'll put only those tasks you're really committed to completing.



Your iTunes Toolbox

If you love music, then iTunes likely logs more hours on your desktop than most applications. iTunes may have a well-designed interface and tight integration with the iPod and the iTunes Music Store, but that doesn't mean it's perfect. There are many ways to add cool functionality to iTunes to make it even better. Here are some handy helper applications and plug-ins that will help you take iTunes to the next level.



Want more tips on digital music? Pick up a copy of the *Macworld iPod and iTunes Superguide*, an 88-page book available in print (\$24.99 [shipping included]) or as a downloadable PDF (\$9.95). Order yours at macworld.com/1371.

Super Scripts

AppleScripts are useful for all sorts of Mac tune-ups, and iTunes is the perfect application to take advantage of them. The ultimate repository of iTunes scripts can be found at Doug's AppleScripts for iTunes Web site (www.dougscripts.com), which holds nearly 400 free scripts for iTunes and your iPod. These are some of my favorites.

Improperly deleting or moving files can leave iTunes full of exclamation points—markers of orphaned tracks still listed in your library. iTunes doesn't have an efficient way to remove all of these at once, but the Super Remove Dead Tracks 1.5 script (macworld.com/1332) will quickly send all of those ghosts to the boneyard where they belong.

If you want to add a track or album to your iPod but not to your iTunes library, then check out Rip To iPod 1.5 (macworld.com/1322). This script immediately adds tracks to your iPod as you rip them from a CD, and deletes them from your iTunes library.

Although iTunes has a built-in feature for finding duplicate tracks, it leaves much to be desired. iTunes only looks to see that tracks have the same name and artist. If you have multiple versions of the same song by the same artist—a studio version and a live version, for example—iTunes' Show All Duplicates command displays them as duplicate tracks, even if none are actually identical. The Corral iTunes Dupes script (macworld.com/1254) lets you define which

parameters—name, artist, album, size, kind, and bit rate—to compare when searching for duplicates. It then puts these songs into a Dupes playlist for you to sort through at your leisure.

Sound Stabilizers

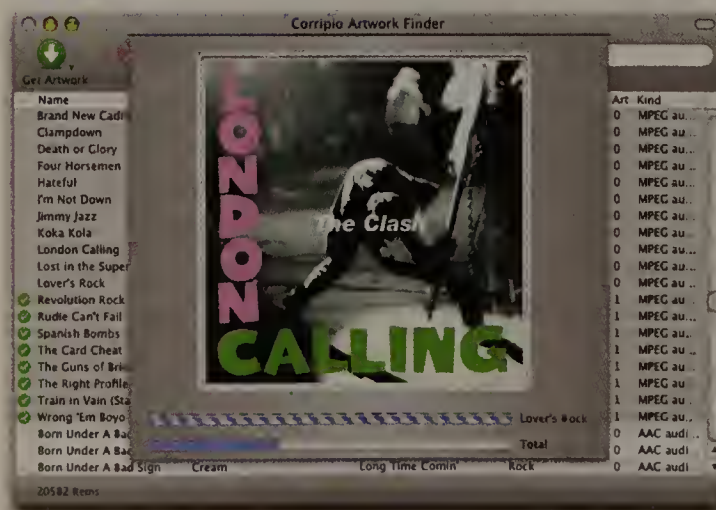
Although iTunes has a Sound Check feature to equalize track volume, anyone who listens to music through headphones knows that it could stand improvement. Manfred Schwind's \$15 iVolume 2 (www.mani.de) uses a different algorithm to calculate the proper volume. Plantronic's \$20 Volume Logic (www.volumelogic.com) also stabilizes your volume but takes things a bit further, balancing out the bass, raising low levels, and essentially remastering your tracks in real time to give even the most diverse playlist a coherent feel.

Artistic Assistants

Album art can enhance the enjoyment of the music you love and give you visual cues to associate with your tunes. But unless you've bought all your music from the iTunes Music Store (iTMS), you probably have a ton of tracks without artwork. Fortunately, several free specialists would love to serve as your personal curator. nClass Software's Corripio 0.3 (nclasssoftware.com) searches the iTMS for album artwork and automatically downloads and adds it to your tracks (see "Cover Me"). Many Dashboard widgets and Sprote Rsrch's Clutter (www.sprote.com) are also great free solutions for adding artwork.

If you're looking for more-dynamic artwork, iTunes supports what Apple calls *visualizers*—basically, personalized light shows that move in time to the music. iTunes comes with a few visualizers, but for mind-blowing 3-D effects, look to some third-party plug-ins. Forrest Briggs's \$10 Ultragroovalicious iTunes Visualizer (www.groovyvis.com) creates 3-D soundscapes in an array of psychedelic patterns and colors. Another awesome iTunes plug-in is SoundSpectrum's G-Force Visualizer (basic version, free; Gold version, \$20; Platinum version, \$30; www.soundspectrum.com), which offers lush colors, patterns, and movements that are entirely customizable.

Cover Me Missing art for your songs? Let Corripio scour the iTunes Music Store for you.





A Different Light viewTunes takes a visual approach to your iTunes library.

Better Browsing

iTunes has a great interface, but sometimes you prefer to look at things from a different perspective. Although it has some rough edges, Amphonic Designs' \$9 viewTunes 2.0 (www.viewtunes.com) provides an interesting visual approach to your library. It pulls album art from iTunes and organizes it in a central window, letting you browse your library and create playlists based on album covers rather than track names (see "A Different Light"). You can also access concert data on Pollstar (www.pollstar.com), artist videos on YouTube (www.youtube.com), and relevant entries on Wikipedia (www.wikipedia.org) by control-clicking or right-clicking on any album cover.

Clutter (mentioned earlier) also takes a visual tack, literally cluttering your desktop with album art images. Clutter also lets you browse your library by album art, and even pulls missing art from Amazon.com and adds it to your library. Steel Skies' free CoverFlow 1.9 (www.steelskies.com) is another excellent browse-by-album cover application. CoverFlow presents your music in a way that's akin to flipping through CD covers or browsing a jukebox full of discs. It, too, can download album art for you.

If you're more concerned about seeing your collection online, another favorite iTunes add-on is KavaSoft's \$25 iTunes Catalog 2 (www.kavasoft.com). This application catalogs your library and then lets you publish it online in an interface that looks just like that of the iTunes or an iPod. Anyone can search through your catalog, and if you share your music via the Personal Web Sharing option in the Sharing preference pane, you can even stream your tracks with links to the iTunes. And no iTunes library is complete without Audioscrobbler (www.audioscrobbler.net), a free plug-in that uploads your iTunes statistics to a user page on the company's Last.fm site (a social networking site that lets you link up with friends to discover new music).

Widget Wonderland

If you're not a widget watcher, you might not be familiar with the Dashboard Widgets Web site (www.dashboardwidgets.com). That's too bad, since it's a treasure

trove of iTunes tools. Alastair Tse's free Album Art 2.6 widget (macworld.com/1333) displays artwork from the current iTunes track, finds it online for you if it's missing, and takes you to the iTunes. Want to know how many total hours you've spent listening to iTunes, how many songs you've got with no artist

or album information, or a host of other stats that iTunes doesn't readily tell you? The free iTunes Stats 0.2b ([macgents.com](http://www.macgents.com); macworld.com/1334) turns Dashboard into your own personal Billboard. If you let others connect to your library via Bonjour, keep tabs on who's listening in and what they're playing with Jason John Yee's free iTunes Connection Monitor 1.6 (macworld.com/1335). For those of you who like to sing along with the music, you'll appreciate mindquirk software's free Harmonic 1.0.4 (macworld.com/1336), which finds song lyrics for you.

Just for Fun

If you sometimes feel that usefulness is overrated, here are a few iTunes add-ons to give a whirl. Jason Freeman's free iTunes Signature Maker (www.jasonfreeman.net/itsm) is a JavaScript Web application that creates an aural collage of your iTunes library (non-iTMS tracks only) based on play counts, ratings, date added, or last play date. The result is a multilayered snapshot of your musical ID that's fun to share and compare with your friends.

If you like starting your day off with a song but don't trust your local radio stations, try waking to the sounds of your favorite playlist instead. iTunes alarm clocks, such as Embraceware's \$9 Awaken 2.5 (www.embraceware.com) and Sanity Software's \$10 PowerController 2.1 (keakaj.com), let you kick off your day with your favorite music—without the zany morning DJ chatter.

Finally, Specere Software's \$13 Menuet 1.1 (www.menuetapp.com) is an iTunes remote whose appearance is completely customizable (or *skinnable*), so you can let your imagination run wild and give it a look all your own. Not artistically inclined? No problem—the whimsical Monkey Bars skin leaves a blinking purple buddy hanging from your menu bar.

For more about two other great tools for your iTunes toolbox—Salling Clicker and Media Rage—see "Software Jackpot," on page 44.

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Weighing the Pros of Raw

Talk to just about any professional digital photographer these days, and you're sure to hear about the wonders of shooting in Raw mode. This feature, typically found in high-end cameras and digital SLRs, gives you much more control over a photo's tones and details. But it has its drawbacks. Before jumping on the bandwagon, make sure you know how to put this format's strengths to best use.

Raw versus JPEG

When you press the shutter button in JPEG mode, the camera's sensor captures the image data and passes it to an onboard computer, which processes the data into a full-color image. The computer then applies the saturation, contrast, sharpening, and other image settings you've defined in your camera's menus. Finally, it compresses the image into a JPEG file—discarding some of the original image data in the process—and stores it on your media card.

Now, compare that to what happens when you take a picture in Raw mode. (Not all cameras feature a Raw mode. If yours does, you'll find it under the same camera menu as your JPEG quality settings. You may have to switch to one of your camera's manual shooting modes to access it.) When you press the shutter button in Raw mode, the camera's sensor captures the image data and stores it on the media card. That's it. The camera doesn't do any image processing or compression—you end up with raw, unprocessed data.

The Upside to Raw

Skipping the processing step gives Raw files several advantages over their JPEG counterparts.

Delayed Decisions While many cameras do a very good job of processing JPEGs, the image adjustments aren't reversible. So if your camera applies too much sharpening, you're stuck with it. Similarly, if your camera tends to oversaturate or shift colors, removing these effects afterward can be very difficult.

But with a Raw file, you can delay these image-processing decisions until you're in front of your computer. That means you stand a better chance of getting an image that looks just the way you want. For instance, you'll never end up with a Raw file that has bad white balance.

More Image Data Though the image sensors in most digital cameras capture 10 or 12 bits of data per pixel, JPEG files can store only 8 bits of data per pixel. So your camera has to throw out a fairly significant amount of color data. Although you can process Raw files as 8-bit images, you can also process them as 16-bit images, thus preserving all the color data your camera has captured. With this extra color data on hand, you can make large image adjustments—such as broad levels or saturation changes—without seeing banding or splotchy patterns.



Highlight Recovery The blown highlights in the image's clouds might have made it fodder for the Trash if I had taken it in JPEG mode. But with Aperture's highlight recovery features, I was able to recapture most of the details.

Choosing a Raw Converter

Because Mac OS X 10.4 has a built-in Raw converter, you can at least view most Raw images in Preview. But to edit that Raw data—which is really the point—you'll need additional software. Here are some of the most popular options.

iPhoto Apple's consumer-level image application (★★★★½; part of iLife '06, \$79; macworld.com/1131) lets you work with Raw files just as you would JPEGs, making it easy to move between formats. iPhoto's editing features are good but basic. To really take advantage of the Raw format's capabilities, you'll want an application with more-advanced controls.

Aperture Apple's \$299 Aperture (★★★★½; macworld.com/1113) improves on iPhoto's editing features with more-refined control of your image's white balance, contrast, noise reduction, sharpening, and more. In addition, Aperture's organizing features are unmatched. Aperture also provides excellent integration with Adobe Photoshop, for times when you need to make selective edits or create composites. Although

reviewers and pro photographers alike criticized the initial release of Aperture for the quality of its Raw conversions, Apple addressed the issue in its 1.1 update.

One of the advantages iPhoto and Aperture have over most other Raw converters (including Photoshop's Camera Raw) is that they don't separate the conversion process from the rest of your editing tasks. With other editors, you must first perform a Raw conversion and then edit. If it turns out that your Raw conversion settings weren't quite right, you have to throw out your image and start over. Another difference is Apple's approach to workflow. Aperture and iPhoto both take a managed approach, performing a lot of housekeeping chores for you. Although this can complicate integration with other applications, if all you want to do is edit and output photos, you may prefer this approach.

Camera Raw Included with both Photoshop CS2 (★★★★½; \$649; macworld.com/1057)

and Photoshop Elements 4 (★★★★½; \$80; macworld.com/1238), Adobe's excellent Raw converter supports a wide range of cameras and includes a thorough set of tools for refining the conversion process. Like Aperture, it can even recover some overexposed highlights from an image that might otherwise be useless. And for complex editing tasks, Photoshop is just a click away. Unlike Apple's offerings, Camera Raw has a fairly manual workflow. You have to group images into folders and keep track of where they are. If you have a complex workflow involving different applications and types of outputs, then you might enjoy this level of control.

Lightroom At press time, Adobe's Lightroom was available as free beta software. Lightroom also uses Photoshop Camera Raw for its Raw conversions, and provides an easier way of working with large batches of images. It's too early to tell how Lightroom stacks up to the competition, but it shows a lot of promise and is worth keeping an eye on.

No Compression The type of compression used to create a JPEG file can degrade your image by creating blocky artifacts and patterns. While your images may look fine right out of the camera, you'll have to ensure that your workflow doesn't apply additional compression.

The Downside to Raw

Of course, the Raw format also has its disadvantages.

Larger Files, Slower Speeds Because the data is uncompressed, Raw files are much larger than their JPEG counterparts (though smaller than the TIFF files some cameras capture), which means that you'll need more camera storage while shooting, as well as more disk space for editing and archiving. Also, your camera may require more time to write these large files to its media card. Depending on the camera, it may not shoot as many images in a single burst.

Additional Processing The JPEG format is now a universal standard. You can take the images out of your camera and immediately open them up in an image editor, a cataloger, and even most e-mail programs. When we talk about Raw files, we're not referring to a single, standardized file format, such as JPEG or

TIFF, but rather to each camera's proprietary data format. To work with these files, you need software that understands the camera's imaging characteristics and can accurately convert its unprocessed data into an image. This step is further complicated by the fact that different software may process the same Raw data in different ways.

This reliance on third-party software once posed a serious drawback to shooting in Raw mode. But recently, a flood of apps has made working with Raw files as easy as using JPEGs (see "Choosing a Raw Converter"). In fact, Apple built a Raw converter into OS X 10.4. However, you must make sure that the software you choose supports the particular camera model you have—whether it's an old or a brand-new camera.

Knowing When to Go Raw

In most cases, you're best served by matching the camera's shooting mode to the situation. For quick snapshots that you don't want to spend a lot of time editing, there's no advantage to shooting in Raw mode. But if you're taking shots that you need to get just right, or if you're dealing with a tricky lighting situation, Raw files offer the greatest flexibility. They'll also give you more image data, which may be important if you plan to make large prints or dramatic tonal changes.

Thankfully, deciding to shoot in Raw mode isn't an irreversible commitment. You can switch freely between Raw and JPEG modes as the situation warrants. Some cameras even offer a Raw + JPEG mode that writes out both types of files with each shot, giving you the best of both worlds. □

Tip **Shoot for the Shadows** Raw files store far more information for bright tones than for dark ones. While film photographers are used to underexposing to protect their highlights, it's actually better to err on the side of overexposing when shooting in Raw mode. Software such as Aperture and Adobe Camera Raw can recover some of the highlights while also darkening the midtones to rebuild the shadows. This results in shadows with less noise than you would see if you had underexposed your images.

BEN LONG is a San Francisco-based writer and photographer. He is also the author of *Getting Started with Camera Raw* (Peachpit Press, 2006).

Polish Your Presentations

If you've ever watched Steve Jobs deliver a keynote address, you've seen a master presenter in action. However, even a sparkling delivery won't salvage your presentation if the audience can't read your slides or decipher your charts. Read on, and find out how to avoid common blunders, using Apple's Keynote 3 and Microsoft's PowerPoint 2004.

Step 1: Trim Text

Your audience has only a few seconds to read each slide, so save the wordy details for handouts. One way to limit the amount of text is to use bullet points featuring short phrases instead of sentences. There's no hard-and-fast rule on how many bullet points to use, although I limit myself to five per slide.

To create bullets in Keynote, select the text to be modified, choose Text Inspector: Bullets, and then click on Text Bullets from the Bullets & Numbering pop-up menu. In PowerPoint, select the text to be modified, select Format: Bullets And Numbering, and then choose the bullet you want to use.

An even better method is to use a single, provocative sentence, an eye-catching image, or a combination of the two that you can talk about during your presentation (see "Censor Yourself"). That way, your audience will spend less time reading and more time listening to you.

Step 2: Improve Visibility

To dress up their slides, presenters sometimes choose fancy fonts and brightly colored backgrounds. But this can make slides less readable.

So save the unusual fonts for the family newsletter. Your slides should be as legible from the back of the room as they are from the front row. Use sans serif fonts such as Helvetica, Arial, or Gill Sans, since they're easier to read, and make sure that the characters are at least 24-point type. Keynote splits up its text-editing functions: Select font and size via the Font window (Format: Font: Show Fonts, or press

Tip To change attributes such as the background in a jiffy, use master slides. Any alteration that you make to a master automatically applies to every slide that you created from that master. In Keynote, go to View: Show Master Slides, click on a master to make it appear in the slide window, and edit it. In PowerPoint, edit the slide master by going to View: Master: Slide Master.

⌘-T), and choose font colors via the Text Inspector, under the Text tab. In PowerPoint, press ⌘-T to edit size, color, and other text attributes.

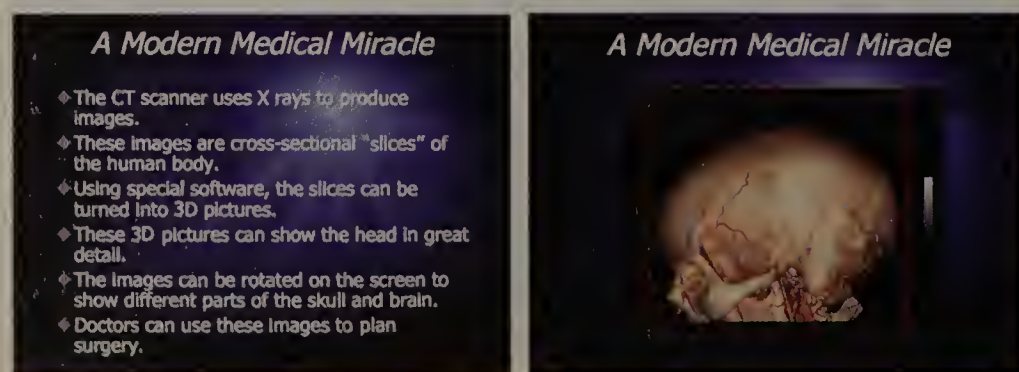
Text should also stand out from the background. Bright backgrounds in dimly lit lecture halls can be hard on the eyes, so in those situations use light text on a dark backdrop (yellow on blue, for example). If given a choice, I prefer to keep the lights in the room on to maintain eye contact with my audience (and hopefully prevent people from dozing off). In bright surroundings, reverse the scheme—use dark shades for the text and light colors for the background.

To change backgrounds in Keynote, go to the Slide Inspector palette, click on the Appearance tab, and choose a background type (color fill, image fill, and so on) from the Background pop-up menu. In PowerPoint, select Format: Slide Background and choose a color from the Background Fill pop-up menu.

Step 3: Simplify Backgrounds

Whether you use one of Keynote's or PowerPoint's built-in templates or create a design from scratch, avoid intricate backgrounds, as they tend to draw the audience's attention away from your main message. If you use a picture or drawing, choose one that doesn't overwhelm what's in the foreground.

If you're representing an organization, you may have to include a company logo on every slide. To keep it from becoming a distraction, consider stashing it in the bottom right corner of each slide and making it slightly transparent. First, drag the logo to where you want it. In Keynote, select the logo and move the Opacity slider at the bottom of the Graphic Inspector to the left. In PowerPoint, double-click



Censor Yourself Instead of overloading your slide with dry text (left), display a picture (right) and tell the audience about it.

on the logo to open the Format Picture dialog box; move the Transparency slider under the Colors And Lines tab to the right.

Step 4: Use High-Quality Graphics

Presenters sometimes regard white space as an invitation to add tacky artwork. (PowerPoint's clip-art library makes this especially easy to do.) Instead of using clip art, include only high-quality drawings and photographs in your presentations by creating them yourself or getting them from other sources. Try graphics with transparent backgrounds, which let the slide background or other foreground objects show clearly.

Two places to get good, cheap art are iStockphoto (www.istockphoto.com), which lets you purchase high-quality stock photos for as little as \$1, and Stock.xchng (www.sxc.hu), where you'll find some free stock photos in a searchable database. (See "Web Help" for more presentation-oriented resources.)

Step 5: Limit Gratuitous Effects

Both Keynote and PowerPoint let you add sound and motion files, as well as elaborate text and transition effects. Use these sparingly, though, as they can detract from your message.

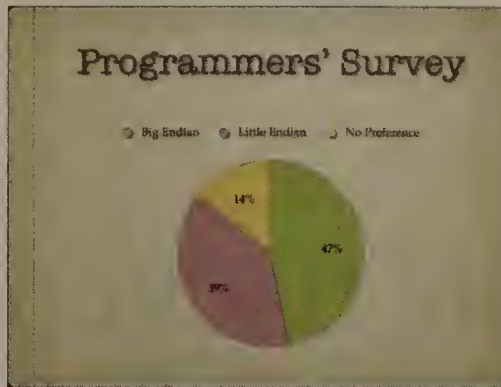
Add sound clips and animations only when necessary—for example, when you want to demonstrate the timbre of a musical instrument or illustrate a physics experiment for a class. Likewise, letters that fly onto the screen and other glitzy text animations are fun to play with, but they become annoying after a slide or two. Instead, try less jarring effects such as making lines of text dissolve onto the screen. In Keynote, select your text, go to the Build Inspector, and under the Build In tab choose Dissolve from the Effect pop-up menu. In PowerPoint, select the text and go to Slide Show: Preset Animations: Dissolve.

Try to keep transition animations simple, too. Although effects such as Keynote's revolving door or PowerPoint's cube transition can enhance picture-laden slide shows, they're out of place in text-heavy presentations. Instead, stick to subtle transitions such as Dissolve and Wipe. In Keynote, set transition effects in the Slide Inspector under the Transition tab; in PowerPoint, go to Slide Show: Slide Transition.

Step 6: Be Wary of Charts

Three-dimensional charts look attractive, but they can make it challenging for the audience to grasp your point, especially if you're presenting statistics. For simple data, tables sometimes work better than charts (see "No Chart Required").

Both Keynote and PowerPoint include tools that let you create and edit tables, but that isn't much help if the audience can't read them. When creating tables, follow the same rules as for text: make the



Programmers' Survey	
Big Endian	14%
Little Endian	47%
No Preference	39%

characters large enough to read from the back of the room, and avoid low-contrast color combinations.

In Keynote, create a table by going to Insert: Table, and then open the Graphic Inspector to specify fill, grid lines, shadow, and opacity. In PowerPoint, create and edit a table by selecting View: Toolbars: Tables And Borders. If the table contains too much information, delete some data or split it across two or more slides.

No Chart

Required There's no need to use a chart to display just a few data points (left); use a table, or plain text, instead (right).

Step 7: Remember Last-Minute Details

Sometimes you spend so much time building the slide show that you ignore the little things. For one thing, remember to check spelling. Turn on automatic spell-checking (in Keynote, go to Edit: Spelling: Check Spelling As You Type; in PowerPoint, go to PowerPoint: Preferences: Spelling), and proofread for errors that spelling checkers can't catch ("top too reasons," for instance).

Also, make sure that you've properly linked pictures and movies to your presentation. In Keynote's Save dialog box, click on the triangle next to Advanced Options and select the Copy Audio And Movies Into Document option. In PowerPoint, save your work as a PowerPoint Package (File: Save As, and choose PowerPoint Package from the Format pop-up menu). This copies any linked sounds, images, and movies into one folder, which makes it easy to move the presentation to another computer.

You've now done everything in your power to ensure a successful presentation. Although following this advice won't turn you into Steve Jobs, at least you'll have a good start. □

FRANKLIN N. TESSLER is a radiologist at the University of Alabama who frequently writes and lectures about presentations.

Web Help

Whether you're a seasoned presenter or a slide-show newbie, you can find a wealth of helpful resources online.

Apple's Keynote Support Forum Get answers to your Keynote questions (macworld.com/1283).

Edward Tufte Tufte is a leading expert on data presentation, and his Web site offers a wide-ranging discussion on design (www.edwardtufte.com).

Google Groups This is the place to find answers to your questions about PowerPoint (macworld.com/1284).

Presentation Zen This blog is devoted to presentations by Garr Reynolds, former Apple manager of worldwide user group relations (www.presentationzen.com).

Sociable Media Here you'll find tips and articles from Cliff Atkinson, author of *Beyond Bullet Points* (Microsoft Press, 2005; www.sociablemedia.com).

Mobile Backup Tips

If you back up your Mac laptop only when you're at home or in the office, you may be living dangerously. After all, a bad crash or a hard-drive failure can happen just as easily when you're traveling as when you're at home. Sure, backing up while on the road presents challenges: you might have to pack extra accessories or find an Internet connection. But isn't keeping your data safe worth the effort?

Trip Prep

Before you leave, make sure you have the right tools.

Backup Media Some people may want to back up over the Internet while others may prefer to tote a storage device such as a portable hard drive, a flash drive, or an iPod. No matter which backup option you pick, always pack some recordable DVDs or CDs—having an alternative way to back up can never hurt.

Backup Software If you need to back up only a few files, you can just drag and drop. Beyond that, you should use a backup utility, which can automatically scan selected folders for files you've changed or created since your last backup. Good utilities include EMC Insignia's \$129 Retrospect Desktop (★★★★; macworld.com/0587), Prosoft Engineering's \$59 Data Backup (www.prosofteng.com), Intego's \$70 Personal Backup X4 (www.intego.com), and Apple's Backup, which is included with a .Mac membership (\$100 per year; www.mac.com).

Whatever software you use, you've probably got limited time, limited storage space, and an unknown

amount of Internet bandwidth, so don't do full backups. Instead, configure your backup software to copy only necessary files, such as documents you're actively working on, e-mail messages, calendar and contact information, or digital images from your trip. (For more on choosing a backup strategy, see "Pick Your Approach.")

Startup Disc If your laptop's hard drive fails, you'll need to start up from another volume to repair it. Pack your OS X Install DVD, or a startup disc from a program such as Alsoft's \$80 DiskWarrior (★★★★; macworld.com/1160) or Micromat's \$98 TechTool Pro (www.micromat.com).

Tip Before you leave town, perform a full backup. If disaster strikes, you can at least restore your Mac to its pre-trip state.

Internet Backups

Many hotels and airports offer high-speed Internet access, often wireless and occasionally free. The biggest advantage to backing up onto the Internet is that your files are stored in a safe place—if your laptop is lost or stolen, your data remains accessible. The disadvantage is that hackers can intercept your data during transmission (even if you're using a protected wireless network).

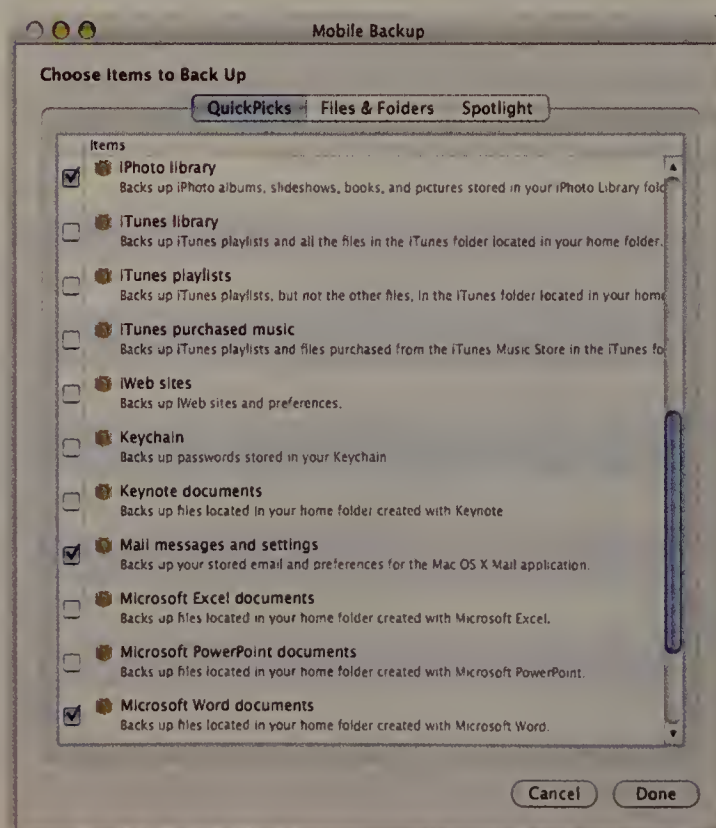
If you back up files over a wireless connection, encrypt them first. Some backup programs, such as Retrospect Desktop, Data Backup, and Personal Backup X4, have built-in encryption. Or you can use a utility such as Allume's \$80 StuffIt Deluxe (★★★★; macworld.com/1362) to encrypt files before sending them over a wireless network.

Alternatively, you can use a Virtual Private Network (VPN) to encrypt data that travels between your Mac and a server. Your employer may offer VPN access, or you can purchase VPN service from a company such as PublicVPN (www.publicvpn.com), which charges \$6 a month or \$60 a year. From there, all you have to do is enter the settings supplied by your VPN provider into Apple's Internet Connect application.

If you go the Internet route, you can choose from several destinations for your backups.

Pick a Winner

Apple's Backup includes a Quick Picks feature, which lets you select common backup options with one click.



Pick Your Approach

Different types of road warriors will need different backup strategies.

Executive If you're mainly working with e-mail messages, text files, spreadsheets, and other small documents, consider an Internet backup service. It's fast, safe, and reasonably inexpensive.

Creative Pro If you create large multimedia files, go with an external hard drive. Consider archiving your work to DVD every few days as a secondary backup—you can never be too careful with irreplaceable files.

Vacationer If you have just a few photos and videos that you want to back up while vacationing, store them on your iDisk. If you're a serious shutterbug, consider backing up to DVD every few days and mailing yourself the discs.



Phone Home If you have a network-based backup system at home or at work, you may be able to connect to it from the road. But this isn't as easy as it sounds; success depends on many variables, including your backup software, your firewall and router settings, and ISP restrictions. Make sure you do a trial run-through from a friend's house or a cybercafé before leaving on a trip.

If you've enabled Personal File Sharing on your home Mac (System Preferences: Sharing: Services), you can try mounting its hard drive on your laptop and copying files to it. To mount a remote hard drive, choose Go: Connect To Server in the Finder, enter the IP address or domain name of the computer, click on Connect, and supply your user name and password. The machine you connect to must have a public IP address; you can't ordinarily access servers with private addresses supplied by a router, although there are sometimes ways to do so.

Use iDisk Subscribers to .Mac can back up to iDisk, by manually copying files or by using Backup or another application. There are limitations: Backup doesn't offer encryption, and a standard .Mac membership includes only 1GB of storage (you can upgrade to 2GB or 4GB for an additional \$50 or \$100 per year, respectively).

To use Backup, choose Plan: New Plan and select Custom. To add files, click on the plus-sign (+) button under the Backup Items list. You can manually choose files and folders or use the Quick Picks pane to select groups of files, such as Address Book data or Word documents (see "Pick a Winner"). Next, mount your iDisk in the Finder (Go: iDisk). To select it as your backup location, click on the plus-sign button under Destination And Schedule, and choose iDisk from the Destination pop-up menu. You can schedule specific times

for your backup, or deselect the Automatically Back Up At The Following Times option to run the backup manually.

Hire a Service Another option is to subscribe to an Internet backup service such as Backjack.com or Prolifix (www.prolifix.net). Both provide backup software (including encryption) and store your backups safely on their servers. Prices vary, depending on the amount of storage. For instance, Backjack.com charges \$12.50 per month for its basic service and 2GB of storage, and Prolifix costs \$10 a month for 500MB.

Local Backups

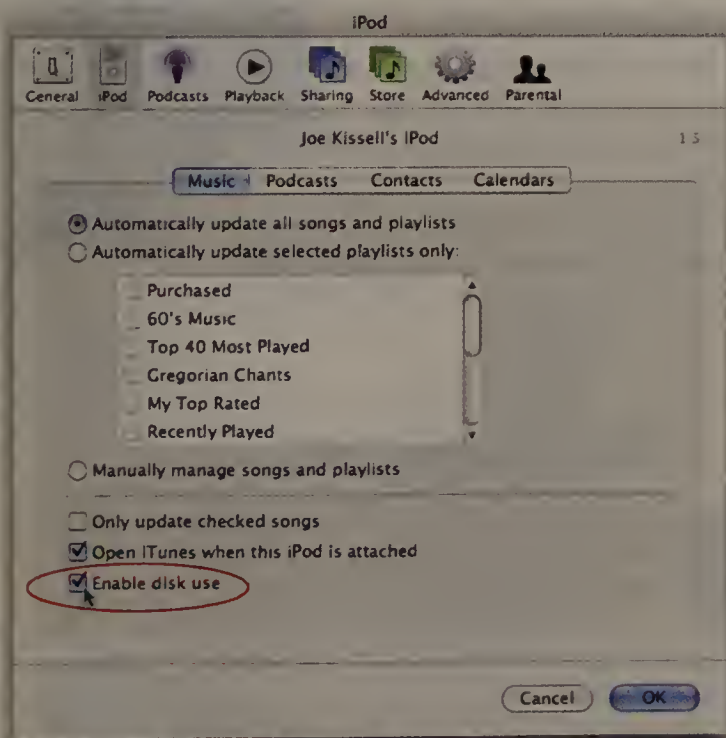
If you're traveling somewhere without high-speed Internet access, you'll need to copy files to a physical medium. Whichever medium you choose, keep it separate from your laptop, preferably in a safe place (such as a hotel's safe deposit box).

CD or DVD One option is to burn files to disc. Insert a blank disc into your laptop's optical drive. Select Open Finder in the window that appears, and click on OK. Drag your files onto the disc icon on your desktop. When you're done, select the disc and choose File: Burn Disc.

Portable Hard Drive Pocket-size hard drives from companies such as LaCie (www.lacie.com) and OWC (www.macsales.com) provide the speediest backups when you're on the road. Using Shirt Pocket's \$28 SuperDuper (www.shirtpocket.com), for instance, you can even create a bootable backup on that drive, so you can keep working if your laptop's drive dies.

iPod Your iPod can pull double duty as a music player and backup device. To use it as an external drive, open iTunes and choose iTunes: Preferences. Go to the iPod pane and select the Enable Disk Use option (see "Disk Jockey"). Your iPod will mount on your desktop, allowing you to copy files to it. While Apple doesn't recommend booting your machine from an iPod, it can be done (see this month's *Mac 911*, page 80).

Flash Drive Keychain-size USB drives—available from Lexar (www.lexar.com), SanDisk (www.sandisk.com), and others—can store as much as several gigabytes of data. However, these tiny drives are easy to lose, and on a per-gigabyte basis, they cost more than a hard drive.



Disk Jockey To use your iPod as an external hard drive, make sure you select Enable Disk Use in iTunes' iPod Preference pane.

JOE KISSELL is the senior editor of TidBits (www.tidbits.com) and the author of the e-book *Take Control of Mac OS X Backups* (www.takecontrolbooks.com).

Amazing Mac Mods

Back in the day, clever geeks who wanted to customize a cool piece of hardware hot-rodged their cars. These days, they *mod* their Macs. In the Mac's sleek exterior, they see an invitation to a little self-expression. Modders love their Macs (and iPods) so much that they want to paint them, accessorize them, and put them into new cases—making the outside as personalized as their on-screen desktops. Here are some of our favorites.



THE NECRO MAC

Modders: John Hart; Evan Keeling **Locations:** Fairfax, Virginia; Washington, D.C. **Ages:** 30; 29 **Occupations:** Apple-certified technician; exhibit specialist
Original model: Power Mac G3 (blue and white)
Hours required: 40 **Cost:** \$40

Goal: "We didn't have a specific goal in mind as much as a specific feel. We wanted a texture and ambiance that was ancient and creepy. It's still a Mac, but it's unlike any other Mac you've ever seen."

Fun fact: "Even though the G3 was released in 1999, people always ask how old the Necro is. And they always must touch it. It seems that people have to make tactile contact with the surface before they can walk away."



THE WOODEN IPOD

Modder: Joshua Driggs **Location:** Austin, Texas **Age:** 25 **Occupation:** Engineer
Original model: iPod (fourth generation) **Hours required:** 15 **Cost:** \$15

Goal: "To make my iPod match the rest of my exotic-wood computer project, without adding any bulk or changing the overall look."

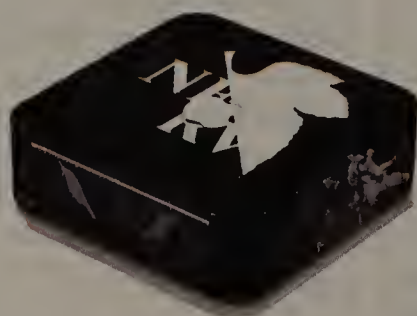
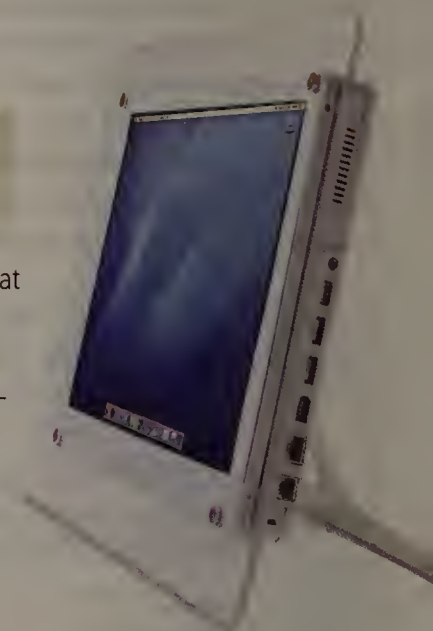
Fun fact: "The wood is only two millimeters thick at the surface. I did all the cutting by hand with a rotary tool. The wood split in the process and had to be glued back together in three places."

THE G3 JUKEBOX

Modder: Tom Mordasky **Location:** Mamaroneck, New York **Age:** 32
Occupation: Graphic artist **Original model:** iBook G3 **Hours required:** 12 **Cost:** \$225

Goal: "Who wouldn't want to have their entire music library at their fingertips and playing in any room of the house? The MP3 Jukebox combines my CD collection, Internet radio, the iTunes Music Store, and a dubbing/burning/iPod hub in a compact, kiosk-style interface. Needless to say, it has completely changed how we listen to music."

Fun fact: "The iBook's polycarbonate case is *really* tough. I was surprised at how difficult it was to cut through—much harder than the 1/8-inch acrylic I used for the faceplate."



THE NEON MINI

Modder: Adam Whitlock **Location:** Madison, Wisconsin **Age:** 22
Occupation: Customer service representative **Original model:** Mac mini
Hours required: 30 **Cost:** \$450

Goal: "To pay tribute to the TV show *Neon Genesis Evangelion*."

Fun fact: "When I first got it back, the downstairs neighbor, [who] is a huge *Evangelion* freak, wanted to buy it right then and there."

THE BLUEICE G4

Modder: Kent Salas **Location:** Victorville, California **Age:** 41 **Occupation:** Web content manager **Original model:** Power Mac G4
Hours required: 142 **Cost:** \$550

Goal: "I wanted to customize a G4 tower, using color. But instead of painting it and being stuck with one color, I wanted to be able to customize it via LEDs or cathode-ray lights, as well as to add enhancements like the internal 5-inch LCD."

Fun fact: "I have literally spilled close to two ounces of my own blood for the BlueIce G4 Project. That's when you know your mod is official."



Getting Started with Modding

Want to make a mess of your Mac and possibly void your warranty in the process? No surprise, you can find out all about modding Macs online. For starters, we suggest:

- > www.applefritter.com
- > www.macmod.com
- > www.modyourmac.com

THE WACKY WALL STREET

Modder: Jeff Jaxon **Location:** Chico, California **Age:** 37 **Occupation:** Help desk supervisor **Original model:** PowerBook G3 (Wall Street) **Hours required:** 100 **Cost:** \$22

Goal: "The PowerBook came to me in two pieces, with the display completely broken off its hinges. I decided that trying to build a new hinge would make it look a little slapped together, so I might as well embrace an all-out, decayed-future, *Road Warrior* look. I started with a big brass toilet-seat hinge and built from there."

Fun fact: "Took third place in the MacMod Challenge 2005 and won the title of Wackiest Mod. And no, I haven't tried to take it through an airport yet."

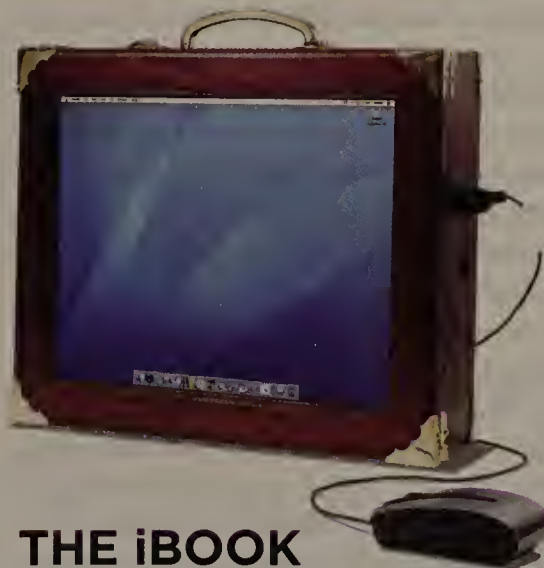


THE TOY-BOX CUBE

Modder: Jeff Thorne **Location:** Orem, Utah **Age:** 23 **Occupation:** Wedding cinematographer **Original model:** G4 Cube **Hours required:** 5 **Cost:** \$3

Goal: "To make something fun that would turn a lot of heads."

Fun fact: "I saw the Lite-Brite Cube at a local thrift shop and thought, 'You know, I bet I could fit my G4 Cube in there and still make it look stock.' So I bought [the Lite-Brite] for three dollars, took it home, and got to work."



THE iBOOK LOADING DOCK

Modder: Casey Wright **Location:** Kearney, Nebraska **Age:** 28 **Occupation:** Photographer **Original model:** iBook G3 **Hours required:** 6 **Cost:** \$28

Goal: "I needed a loading station where I could unload images from CompactFlash cards—and it needed to complement the Old West decor of our museum."

Fun fact: "I bought the iBook new in 1999. It survived a car crash, two moves, and flying ten feet in the air, and it never gave me any problems. I figured a nice quiet job would be a fitting retirement."



THE GAME SHUFFLER

Modder: David Sonnenshein **Location:** Boston, Massachusetts **Age:** 20 **Occupation:** Student **Original model:** iPod shuffle (1GB) **Hours required:** 24 **Cost:** \$30

Goal: "To install the shuffle into the Nintendo controller, altering the outside of the controller as little as possible. Also, to make a simple hold switch to prevent accidental button mashing."

Fun fact: "I gave this to a friend right before he left for Chennai, India. Since he's been there, children have twice asked him, 'Excuse me, why are you listening to video games?'"

CYRUS FARIVAR is an assistant editor at *Macworld*. He once modded his TI-85 graphing calculator in high school, but never his Mac.

Mac OS X Hints

The Insiders' Tips You Won't Get from Apple

Distinguish Docked URLs

One handy OS X feature is the Dock's ability to give you one-click access to Web sites. Drag a URL to the right side of the Dock (or to the bottom, if you orient your Dock vertically), and you create a spring icon that you can click on to go directly to the Web page. (This works with Apple's Safari, Mozilla's free Camino [www.caminobrowser.org], and The Omni Group's \$30 OmniWeb [www.omnigroup.com]. It doesn't work with Mozilla's free Firefox [www.mozilla.com].)



Unique URLs Puzzled by your docked URLs' generic spring icons? Make them easy to identify at a glance with custom icons.

This is a great time-saver if you have a few URLs you access often. The problem is that every site gets the same generic spring icon, so a casual glance at the Dock won't tell you which site each icon represents; you must hover your cursor over an icon to reveal its title. Here's a workaround that will let you apply a unique icon to each docked URL.

Start by creating a new folder on your desktop (or, if you don't like a cluttered desktop, in your *user folder/*Documents). Name it Docked URLs. When you want to create a docked URL, drag the URL from your browser into the Docked URLs folder instead of directly to the Dock. This creates a *Web-location* file, just as dragging a URL to the Dock does.

Now look at the Web site you want to bookmark, and find a logo or an image that will help you identify the site. You'll use this graphic as a custom

icon. Once you've found it, press ⌘-shift-control-4. Your cursor will turn into cross-hairs; then click and drag to select the graphic, trying to make the selection as square as possible. Release the mouse when you're done. The clipboard now contains the image.

In the Finder, open the Docked URLs folder and select the Web-location file you created. Press ⌘-I (File: Get Info). Select the @ HTTP icon in the top left corner and then press ⌘-V

(Edit: Paste). You should see your custom graphic in the small square—OS X will automatically scale it as required. Close the Get Info window and move your customized URL to the Dock (see "Unique URLs").

Get Selective with Finder Selections

Sure, you know how to select something in the Finder by clicking on it (see "Master the Finder" for a selection primer). But what happens if you select several files and then realize that you want the unselected items in that location instead? For example, say you've grabbed all the image files in a folder that contains image files and text documents, but then you decide that you want to leave the images where they are and move the *documents* to a new location.

You could start over, but that's the hard way—at least if you use the icon or column view. Instead, just move the mouse to an empty area within the current folder, press and hold ⌘, and start dragging over everything in the window. (If you use the list view, you must begin dragging from the left of a file name.) As you do so, you'll see your current selections become unselected while the previously unselected items are selected. (Go to macworld.com/1366 to see a movie of this technique in action.)

Uncover Missing Keynote Animations

When Apple upgrades programs, it sometimes also downgrades them in certain ways (usually silently). Such is the case with Keynote 3 (part of the \$79 iWork '06 suite; ■■■■; macworld.com/1128). When I first looked at Keynote 3, I saw nothing but useful new features. But then I went looking for one of my favorite Keynote transitions—Motion Dissolve—and it was nowhere to be found. It worked fine in existing presentations, but I couldn't add it to a new one. A bit of investigation revealed more missing effects—the Burn, Drop, Falling Tiles, Grid, and Twirl transitions, along with the Drop and Twirl build effects. Thankfully, recovering these effects is quite simple. Go to Keynote: Preferences, click on the General tab, and choose the Include Obsolete Animations In Choices option. That's it—all the missing animations will appear back in their proper spots in the Build and Transition pop-up menus.

Use the Keyboard in Preview Slide Shows

Have a folder full of images you need to review? There's no need to open them all in Apple's iPhoto or



WHAT'S ONLINE

> Move between New Mail Messages

Use a third-party tool to create a command that allows you to navigate between Mail messages viewed in new windows.

macworld.com/1367

> Drag-and-Drop Web Views in Keynote

Easily create Web views in Keynote.

macworld.com/1368

> Terminal Fun

Watch an animated ASCII text tribute to *Star Wars*—in Terminal.

macworld.com/1369

Master the Finder

Need to move some files around or open a bunch of files in one application? You can save a lot of time by learning how to use key combinations in the Finder. Pressing the control, ⌘, option, and/or shift keys in conjunction with a mouse click or drag unlocks all sorts of special abilities that can help you get things done more easily.

⌘-Click The handy ⌘ key is right next to your spacebar—it's sometimes called the command key, the cloverleaf key, the Apple key, or "that squiggly key." This key lets you select noncontiguous items. In the list, column, or icon view, press and hold ⌘ before clicking on an icon. Continue to hold down ⌘, and click on another icon. You'll see that you now have two items selected. This is a good way, for example, to grab all the JPEG files in a folder even if they're not next to each other. Once they're selected, you can then drag and drop them onto your image editor or move them to a new location.

Shift-Click If you work in the column or list view, you can shift-click to select a group of contiguous files. Click on the first file you want to select, press and hold the shift key, move the mouse to the last file in your selection-to-be, and then click the mouse. Presto, all the contiguous files are selected. In the icon view, shift-click works the same as ⌘-click.

Control-Click When you press and hold the control key and then click on an icon in the Finder, you'll see a pop-up window that's called a

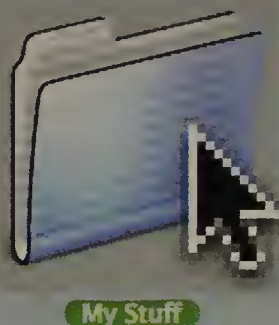
contextual menu because the options it provides vary depending on what you've selected. Control-click on an application, and you'll see Show Package Contents in the menu; control-click on a document, and Open With will appear in the menu. You can do all sorts of useful things from a con-

textual menu. For example, you can open documents in programs other than those that created them, open the Get Info window, or apply color labels to your folders.

Option-Drag By default, OS X moves files when you drag them from one spot to another on the same hard drive. To force the Finder to copy the file instead (so that you have a copy in both places) hold down the option key while you drag.

⌘-Drag By default, OS X copies objects when you drag them from one hard drive to another. Drag a Word document from your hard drive to an external drive, for instance, and you'll have a copy on each. But what if you'd rather just move the file? In that case, press and hold ⌘ while dragging the file.

⌘-Option-Drag If you press and hold both ⌘ and option as you drag something, you'll create an alias of the chosen file(s) in the destination folder. Aliases are a useful way to collect pointers to different files, in one location (see last month's *Mac OS X Hints* column at macworld.com/1438 for more about aliases).



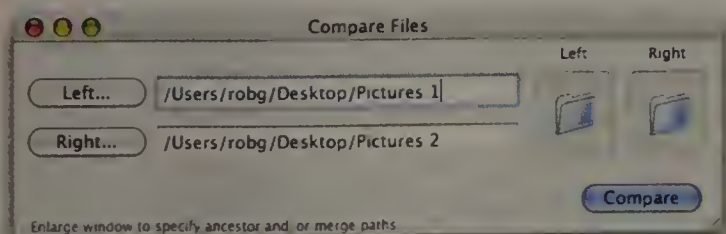
Adobe Photoshop. The OS X 10.4 version of Preview (/Applications) includes a handy slide-show tool that makes quickly looking at several images a breeze.

Choose View: Slideshow in Preview (⌘-shift-F) to start the show. An on-screen controller lets you pause the slide show, view all the images as an index sheet, toggle between the Fit To Screen and Actual Size modes for an image, add an image to iPhoto, and exit the slide show.

If you prefer using the keyboard to using the mouse, you can employ the arrow keys to move between each image in your slide show. But Preview also offers a few other time-saving keyboard shortcuts. Press A to view an image at its actual size. Press F to resize an image so it fills the screen. Press I to view the index page. On the index page, you can use the arrow keys to select an image, and then press return to view the selected image.

Compare or Merge the Contents of Two Folders

Unless you create software for a living, you probably haven't explored Apple's Developer Tools. These free



Folder Comparison Use FileMerge (part of Apple's Developer Tools) to compare two folders.

tools can be very useful, so they're worth checking out. (You'll find the Developer Tools package on your Tiger Install DVD. Once you've installed the package, you'll see a new Developer folder at the root level of your hard drive.)

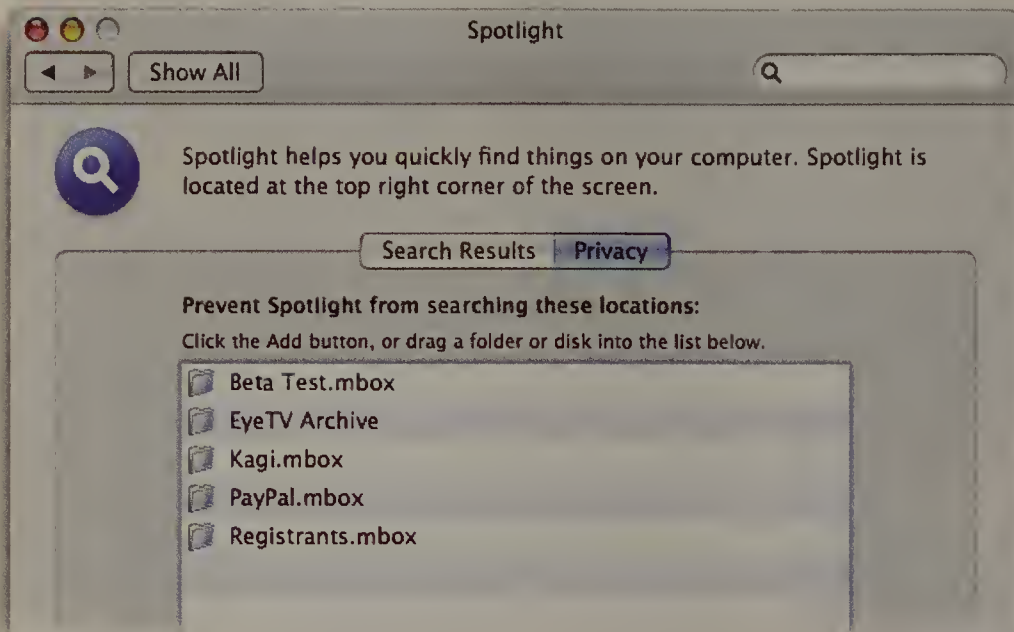
Consider FileMerge, which you'll find in /Developer/Applications/Utilities. This program is typically used to compare two text files—drag files to the Left and Right drop zones in the Compare Files window, and FileMerge will display a comparison page that shows the differences between the two files. This feature is very handy if you do a lot of work with HTML, PHP, or other pure text files and often have multiple, nearly identical, versions of those files.

But not many people know that you can also use FileMerge to compare two folders. For example, say you have two folders of images, and you'd like the folders to be identical. You could invest in a synchronization utility such as Econ Technologies' \$30 ChronoSync (■■■■; macworld.com/0609), but that might be overkill. Instead, give FileMerge a shot.

Launch FileMerge and then drag one folder into each drop zone in the Compare Files window (see "Folder Comparison"). Once you've added the folders, just click on Compare. FileMerge opens a new window with a list of gray and black file names. A gray file name indicates that the file is in both folders. A black file name indicates that the file is in only one folder. Select a file to see a status message



Have a hint? Go to the Mac OS X Hints Web site (www.macosxhints.com) to share it. This column was based on tips from Marc Gelfo, Martin Girschick, Rob Hartill, Frederik Seiffert, and anonymous contributors. Each month, the author of our favorite tip receives the *Help Desk* mug.



Get Mail out of the Spotlight If you keep a lot of e-mail messages in old folders that you don't want Spotlight to search, omit the folders from Spotlight's index by choosing them in the Privacy tab.

at the bottom of the window. If the message reads, "added to right," the file is in the folder you placed in the Right drop zone. If the message reads, "added to left," the file is in the Left drop zone's folder. To simplify this view, use the Exclude check boxes. Select the Identical option, for example, if you don't want to see files that are in both folders.

If you'd like to look at any of the files, click on the View button to display a drop-down menu of options. Choose Comparison (for text files only) to open the traditional FileMerge comparison window, or use the Left File or Right File option to see the actual text or images in the specified folder. The Ancestor and Merge views are for people using FileMerge to check code. (You can read more about these options in FileMerge's Help file.)

If you wanted only to visually compare the two folders' contents, you're done. But you can also use FileMerge to merge the two folders into one new one. To do this, select all the files in the leftmost column (click on one and then press ⌘-A). Then select Combine Files from the Merge pop-up menu (or press ⌘-1). FileMerge will ask you for a new folder name and then merge the two folders.

Hide Mail Messages from Spotlight

Are you an e-mail pack rat like me? If you were to peer into my copy of Apple's Mail, you'd see more than 15,000 messages filed away. I can't bring myself to delete them—just in case. Who knows when I might need something in that folder of messages from every person who registered for my e-book about OS X 10.1? Or what if a critical piece of information is in the folder containing press releases that date back to 2002?

In previous versions of OS X, having all this data stuffed in my Mail folders wasn't a problem. But with the release of version 10.4, Spotlight entered the picture. Left to its own devices, Spotlight will index every Mail message you keep. For me, this meant that Spotlight searches would often return tons of irrelevant matches from archived messages. I don't want to ditch these messages, but hiding them from Spotlight sure would be convenient.

An anonymous tipster on the Mac OS X Hints Web site found a simple solution. Open the Spotlight preference pane and then click on the Privacy tab. Click on the plus sign (+) at the bottom of the window, and then navigate to *your user folder/Library/Mail/Mailboxes*. Now just click on the folder you'd like to exclude, and then click on Choose. (You can select more than one folder at a time by holding down the ⌘ key.) Each time you do this, the folder is added to the list of locations on your computer that Spotlight doesn't index (see "Get Mail out of the Spotlight").

If necessary, navigate into the folders within the Mailboxes folder to reach subfolders. When you're done, close the Spotlight pane, and that's that. If you ever decide you want Spotlight to include a certain folder again, just return to the Privacy tab, select the folder, and press the minus sign (–) to remove it. As soon as you do so, Spotlight will update its index to include all the messages therein. □

Senior Editor ROB GRIFFITHS is the author of *Mac OS X Power Hound, Panther Edition* (O'Reilly Media, 2004), and runs the Mac OS X Hints Web site (macosxhints.com).



POWER TIP OF THE MONTH

Turbocharge Mice and Trackpads

Does your mouse or trackpad move slower than you'd like? If you've got your desktop spread across two 30-inch LCD monitors—or some other deluxe setup—reaching the File menu with your poky cursor can feel like a grueling event in the Elbow Olympics. And even maxing out the settings in the Keyboard & Mouse preference pane may not help enough.

One option is to switch to a third-party mouse. They usually include their own drivers, which may provide faster cursor speeds. But if you're using a portable Mac, this may not be a desirable solution. Instead, you can use a simple Terminal command to give your built-in trackpad or stock Apple mouse a speed boost. Open Terminal (/Applications/Utilities) and type one of the following commands.

If you have a mouse: `defaults write -g com.apple.mouse.scaling number`

If you have a trackpad: `defaults write -g com.apple.trackpad.scaling number`

The *number* at the end of each command must be replaced by a number indicating the speed you'd like to use. The higher the number, the faster the tracking will be. The default value for maximum mouse speed is 3.0; maximum trackpad speed is 1.5. You might try a starting value of 5.0 for your turbocharged mouse, and 2.5 or 3.0 for a turbocharged trackpad.

The easiest way to make your changes take effect is to log out and then log in again (Apple menu: Log Out *user name*). Upon login, you should have a more responsive input device. Just take it easy with the increases, as you may find that a superfast cursor is unusable. Also note that if you ever move the speed slider in the Keyboard & Mouse preference pane again, you'll override your turbo settings.

Macworld **iPOD** **AND iTUNES** SUPERGUIDE

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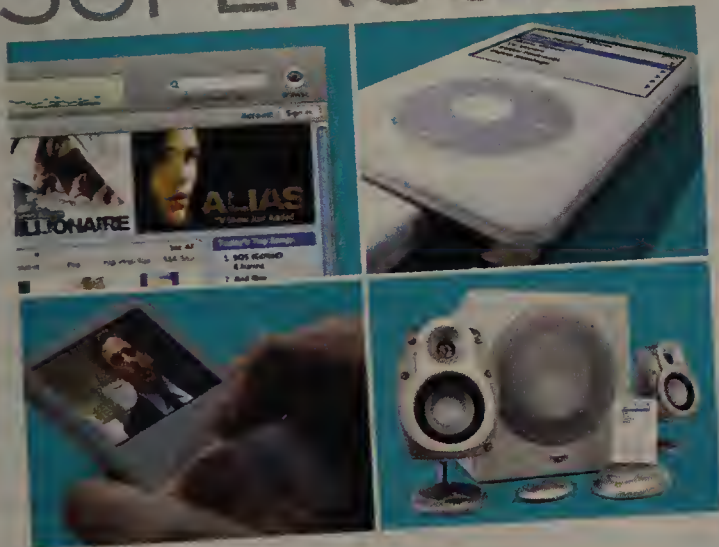
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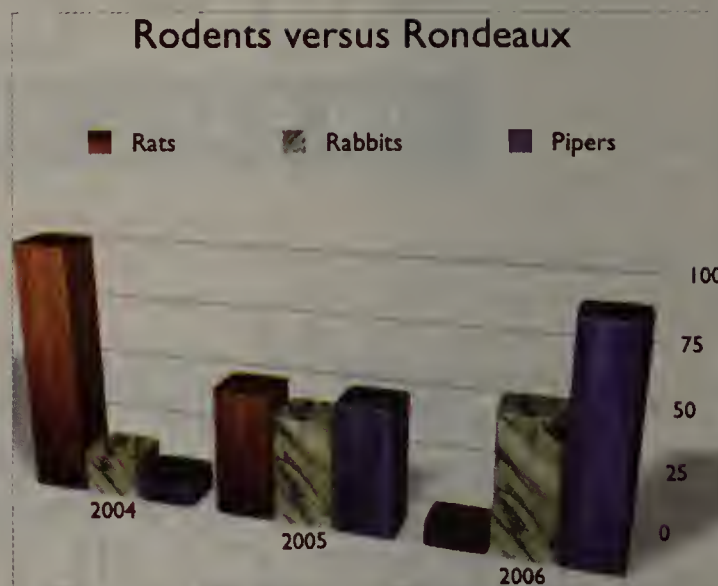
Toying with Textures

In January, Steve Jobs showed off Keynote 3's cool new charts—the ones with the wood and marble textures. I've been trying to change textures in my charts and can't figure out how to do it. What's the trick?

Chuck Joiner

So, you want to mix and match your textures in Apple's Keynote 3 (part of iWork '06, \$79; www.apple.com). First, let's say you've created a bar chart—which is what appears by default when you choose the White theme and then click on the Chart button in the toolbar. Lovely as the chart's default gray and brown paper textures may be, you'd like to change the colors to something cheerier. To do so, follow these steps.

Click on one of the bars—say, a gray one. This selects all the gray bars. Open the Inspector (View: Show Inspector) and choose the Graphic tab (hover over the tabs to see their names). From the Fill pop-up menu, choose Tinted Image Fill. Click on the Tint color icon (to the right of the Choose button). In the resulting Colors palette, click on a new color. The gray bars will change to that color while retaining their texture.



Mixed Media Although mixing textures can be a formula for ugly charts, Keynote 3's Copy Style and Paste Style commands will let you do it.

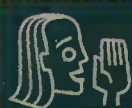
Changing the actual texture of the bars takes more fancy footwork. Why? The texture is based on your presentation's theme. For example, if you choose a 3-D bar chart in the White theme, you get marble bars. Change your theme to Black and you get bar charts with a wood texture. You can't use the Inspector to change the textures of 3-D charts, so what do you do?

Create a new Keynote file that uses the theme you want for your chart. Make your chart in this file and then copy and paste the chart into your actual presentation. Alternatively, you could try this trick, which a Mac 911 forum participant came up with. Select only the element you want—a wooden bar, for example. Choose Format: Copy Style, switch to your preferred theme, select that same element in the new theme, and choose Format: Paste Style. This applies the copied texture to the selected object (see "Mixed Media"). The advantage of doing this is that you can mix textures. You could, for example, create a bar chart that included wood, plastic, and cloth textures.

Note that Apple likely tied textures to themes so you wouldn't create ugly presentations. If your audience groans because your wooden charts clash with your Formal-themed presentation, you have no one to blame but yourself.

Inconsistent Keys

On a Windows PC, if you place your cursor in the middle of a sentence and press the end key, the cursor jumps to the end of that line. Conversely, if you press the home key, the cursor



TIP OF THE MONTH

Satellite Listings with EyeTV 2

One of the things I really liked about scheduling recordings with version 1.X of Elgato's EyeTV software was the ability to select from either my local cable listings or my satellite network lineup on the TitanTV Web site. I initially thought this flexibility disappeared when the \$79 EyeTV 2 (★★★★☆; macworld.com/1239) switched to the Electronic Program Guide (EPG). EPG shows listings inside the software instead of through the Web browser. However, it turns out that there's a little TitanTV logo at the bottom of the Program Guide window. Click on it to open your browser and go to an already personalized TitanTV Web site.

If I go to the satellite listings, I'm able to click on the Record button to schedule anything from the satellite lineup. (Note that this is good for recording only one program at a time from the satellite, because you have to manually tune the receiver to the proper channel for recording.) I now have my cable recording and satellite recording back again.

Dave Jagger



jumps to the beginning of the line. But when I try either on my iMac G5, the cursor remains where it is. What are the end and home keys supposed to do on the Mac?

Steve Sawula

On the Mac, the home and end keys don't always do the same things across applications. For example, these keys work as you describe in Microsoft Office applications but not in TextEdit. In Web browsers, you'll discover that the home and end keys take you to the beginning and end of a page, respectively.

The consistent keyboard shortcuts for placing the cursor at the beginning and end of a line are ⌘-left arrow and ⌘-right arrow, respectively. (Again, browsers are the exception here. Use these keys to go to the previous and next pages, respectively.) If you'd like your cursor to jump to the beginning and end of your document, try ⌘-home and ⌘-end.

Creating Address Book Categories

How does Apple's Address Book assign categories to contacts? I notice that most—but not all—of my contacts have one or more categories listed in the Note section.

James Aldrich

Your mysteriously categorized contacts were undoubtedly exported from a contact manager, such as Address Book, that supports the universal vCard contact standard.

Try exporting these contacts yourself by creating a new group (File: New Group) and giving it a descriptive name—My Friends, for example. Pack that group with appropriate contacts. Now drag that group to your desktop—a vCard file will appear. Double-click on the file, and Address Book will tell you that it's going to import and update *x* number of contacts. Click on OK, and then select that group. You'll see that each of those contacts now includes a Note entry along the lines of *CATEGORIES: My Friends*. If any of the contacts belong to other groups as well, those group names will also be listed.

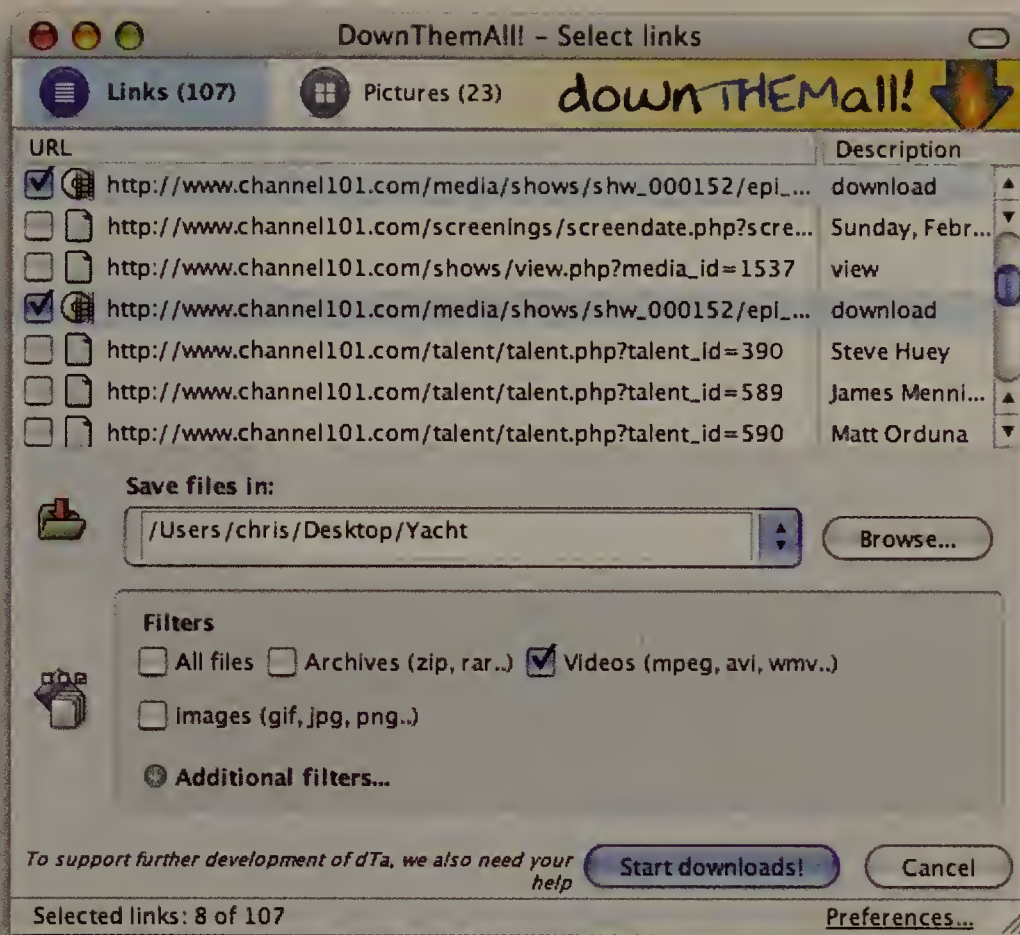
Is this useful? Sure. Use these category notes to create a smart group (File: New Smart Group) that automatically gathers contacts that appear in multiple groups. For example, a smart group with two conditions—Note Contains My Friends and Note Contains Business—would list only those contacts you count among your business buddies.

More-Efficient Firefox Downloads

I visited a Web site that had links to a lot of MPEG-4 movies. I wanted to download them all, but when I clicked on each link I found that Mozilla Firefox would download only two movies simultaneously. Is Firefox really limited to just two downloads?

Don MacKenzie

By default, Mozilla's free Firefox Web browser (www.mozilla.com) can download only two files at a time,



but you can change that. Type `about:config` into Firefox's Address field. Type persistent into the Filter field that appears at the top of the resulting page, and double-click on the `network.http.max-persistent-connections-per-server` entry. In the sheet that appears, type in a number larger than 2. (This will be the number of simultaneous connections.) Quit Firefox, and relaunch. Once you do this, you can download more files simultaneously.

If you download a lot of files frequently, you might also get the DownThemAll extension (free; macworld.com/1328). As its name implies, DownThemAll allows you to automatically download all the linked files on a page or just a selection of particular file types (see "Easier Downloads"). For example, you can ask it to download just a page's video files. This queues the downloads so you don't have to hang around clicking on link after link.

Fishin' for Permissions

Whenever I repair disk permissions with Disk Utility's First Aid feature, I see a long list of entries about widgets. Even after I've supposedly repaired these permissions, I continue to see these entries. What's going on?

Mary South

If you repair permissions regularly, you may believe that it's necessary to deal with anything that Disk Utility's (/Application/Utilities) First Aid feature reports. Not in this case.

With the advent of Tiger's widgets, First Aid became chattier, much like a barroom companion who drones on and on without ever getting to the point of a long-winded story. In this case, First Aid listed widget after widget and said that each is using a special permission (33188). The problem was that it failed to

continues

Easier Downloads

By adjusting Firefox's configuration settings and adding the DownThemAll extension, you can simultaneously download an entire page's worth of video or graphics files.




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TOOLS OF THE TRADE

The Return of iPod Booting

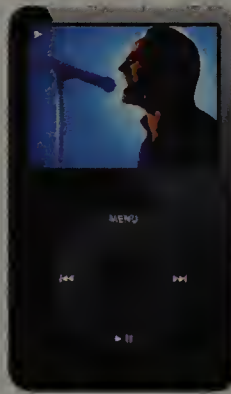
A full-size iPod configured to boot your Mac can be an indispensable troubleshooting tool. Install a copy of OS X on it, along with copies of your troubleshooting utilities, and you've got a lean, mean bootable external hard drive for repairing a misbehaving Mac. Unfortunately, when Apple abandoned FireWire syncing, the bootable iPod also disappeared. Until now.

Apple's Intel-based Macs can boot from compatible USB 2.0 hard drives. The 30GB and 60GB video iPods (both ; \$299 and \$399, respectively; macworld.com/1352) house just such a compatible USB drive. Successfully installing OS X on these iPods isn't quite the walk in the park that it was on earlier iPods. Unlike full-size FireWire-compatible iPods, the iPod with video doesn't appear as a viable destination to the OS X installer. But there's a way around it, and it works like this.

Download a copy of Mike Bombich's free Carbon Copy Cloner (see "Software Jackpot," on page 44). This handy tool can create a bootable volume that contains the contents of another volume. Although Carbon Copy Cloner isn't available in a version native to an Intel Mac, it works perfectly well under Apple's PowerPC emulation software, Rosetta.

Launch Carbon Copy Cloner, and choose your Intel Mac's startup drive as the source for the clone and the iPod as the destination. Click on the Preference button, and make sure that the Make Bootable option is enabled. After about an hour, Carbon Copy Cloner will complete its work, copying the selected contents of the Mac's hard drive to the iPod. Open the Startup Disk preference pane, choose the iPod, and click on Restart. The Mac will boot (*slowly*) from the iPod.

As I said earlier, a bootable iPod is a useful troubleshooting tool. (It will be even more useful when utilities such as Alsoft's DiskWarrior and Micromat's TechTool Pro are available in versions compatible with Intel Macs.) Using your iPod in this way is good for putting a bootable copy of your Mac in your pocket—when you want to maintain your desktop environment on the road, for example. Just remember that the iPod isn't vented, and its hard drive wasn't meant to spin constantly, as it would if you used it to routinely boot your Mac.



sum up the report with an "Oh, and you can bang on the Repair Permissions button from here until doomsday, and you'll see this same list of entries every time."

I write in the past tense because Apple addressed this issue with the OS X 10.4.6 update. Install it, and you'll find that First Aid no longer lists widget entries. Yet there's still something you can take away from this: Feel free to ignore any entry that begins with "We are using special permissions."

Target Disk Mode versus FireWire

I'm trying to connect two Macs so I can see the secondary Mac's hard drive from the screen of the primary Mac. I want to use the secondary Mac mainly for storage and for testing new software and updates. But when I attach a FireWire cable, go into the Network preference pane, and click on Apply Now, the secondary Mac doesn't appear on the screen of my primary Mac. What's up?

Barry Wallack

There are two ways to connect these Macs via FireWire. Unfortunately, you haven't quite accomplished

either. Here's how to do both:

Target Disk Mode Shut down the secondary Mac, and string a FireWire cable between the two computers. Start up the secondary Mac while holding down the T key on its keyboard. In a short time, a FireWire symbol will appear on that Mac's display. That Mac's drive should appear on your primary Mac's display as a local volume. At this point you can have your way with the drive—treating it just like an external drive that's physically attached to your primary Mac (which, in a way, it now is).

Network via FireWire The other option is to mount the secondary Mac's drive as a network volume. To do so, string that FireWire cable between the two Macs. On the secondary Mac, launch System Preferences, open the Sharing preference pane, and select the Personal File Sharing option in the Services tab.

Return to the primary Mac, open its Network preference pane, and from the Show pop-up menu choose Built-In FireWire. From the Configure IPv4 pop-up menu, choose Using DHCP and then click on Apply Now. In short order, a self-assigned IP address will appear—something that begins with 162.254. (If no IP address appears, click on the Renew DHCP Lease button.)

In the Finder, select Go: Network. In the Network window that appears, you should see the secondary Mac. Click on its icon and then on the Connect button that appears. In the Connect To Server window that pops up, enter the user name and password for that secondary Mac (that Mac's administrator name and password) and then click on Connect. In the next window, choose the secondary Mac's hard drive and click on OK. That Mac's hard drive will mount on the primary Mac's desktop as a network volume.

A word of caution: You mention that you'd like to test applications that reside on that secondary Mac. They may not run—or will run, but oddly—on the primary Mac because you haven't installed the applications and their support files on your primary Mac. If you'd really like to see how they'll perform on the primary Mac, consider creating a Target Disk Mode setup. Then restart your primary Mac, holding down the option key, and in the screen that appears, choose the secondary Mac's hard drive as the startup drive. This boots the primary Mac from the secondary Mac's hard drive.

This may not work if the secondary Mac's hard drive can't boot the primary Mac. For example, I can't boot my PowerBook G4 from my Intel Mac mini's hard drive because the systems aren't compatible. I can, however, boot that PowerBook from my older, PowerPC-based Mac mini. □

Senior Editor CHRISTOPHER BREEN is the author of *Secrets of the iPod and iTunes*, fifth edition, and *The iPod and iTunes Pocket Guide* (Peachpit Press, 2005).

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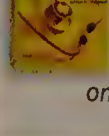
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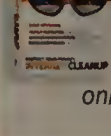


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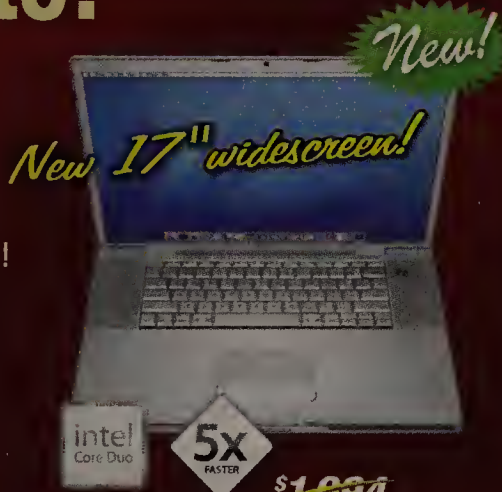


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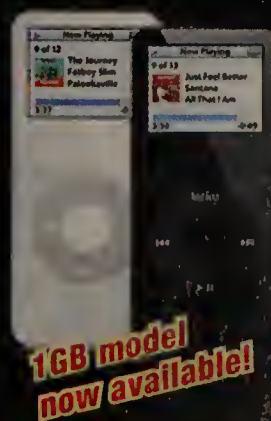


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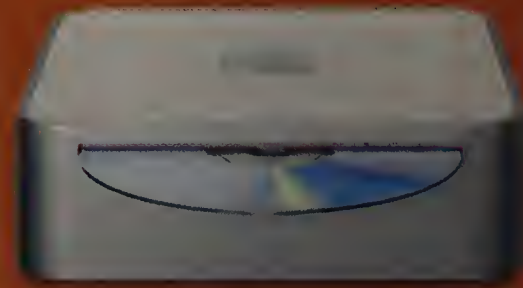
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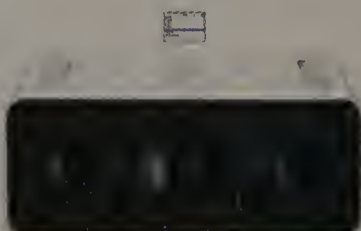
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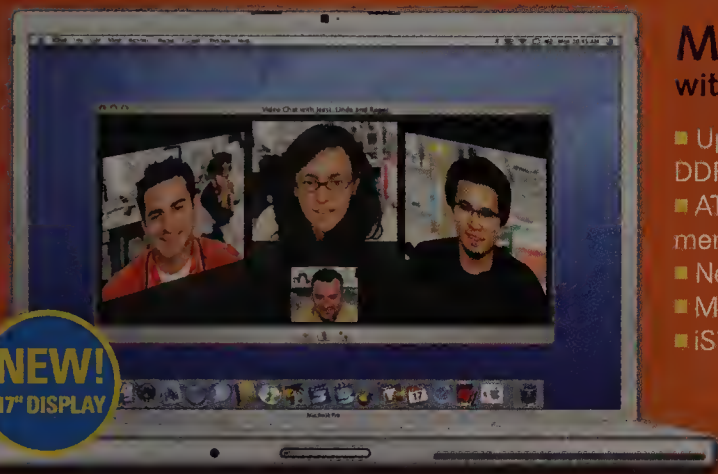
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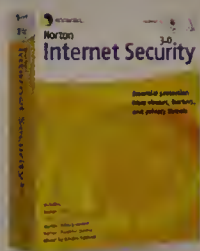
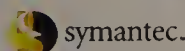


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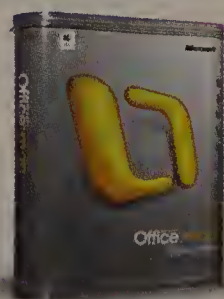


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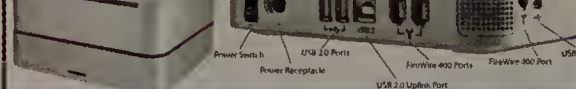
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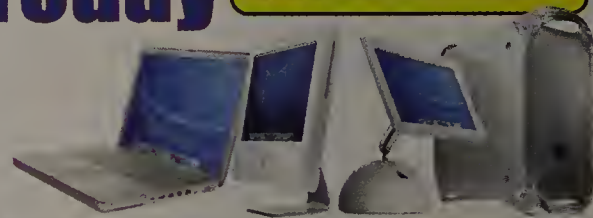


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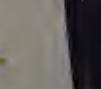
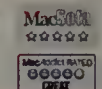
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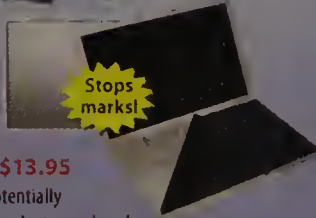
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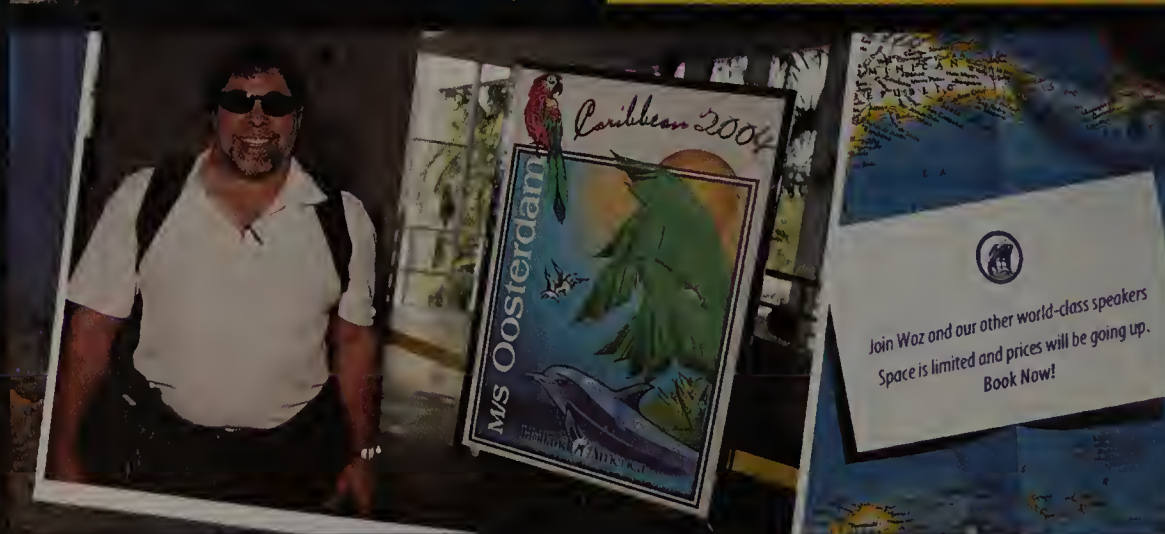
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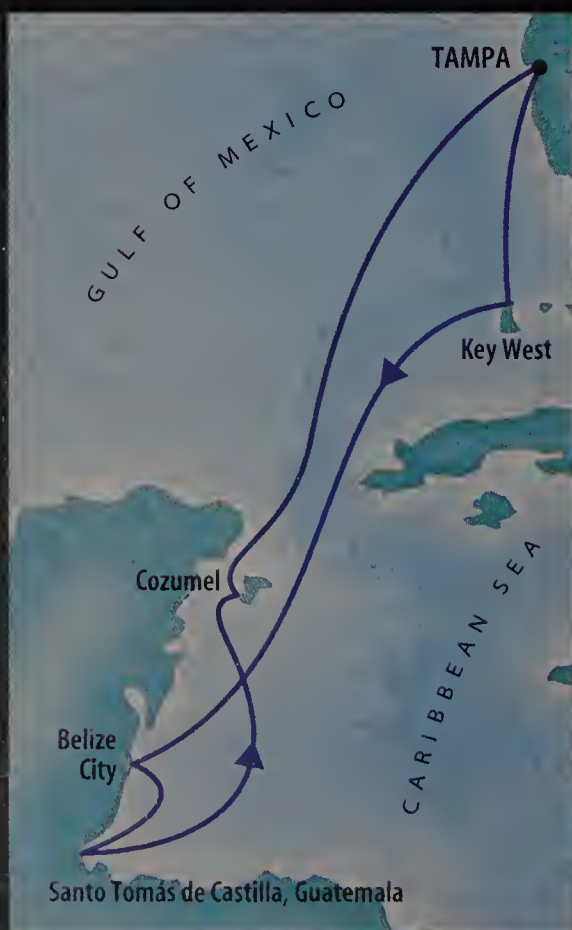
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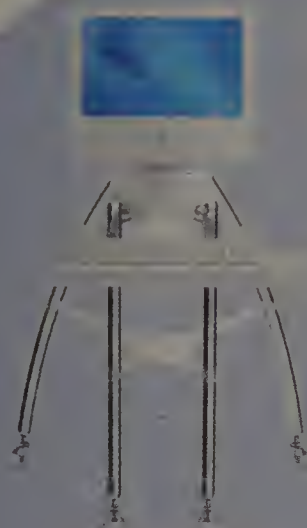
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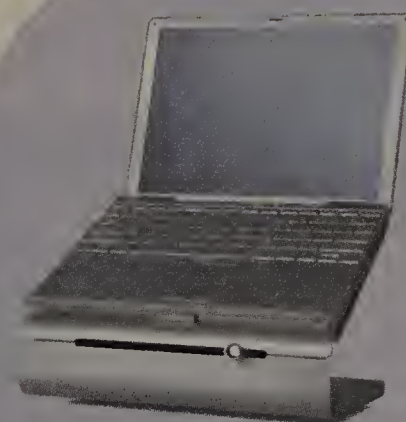
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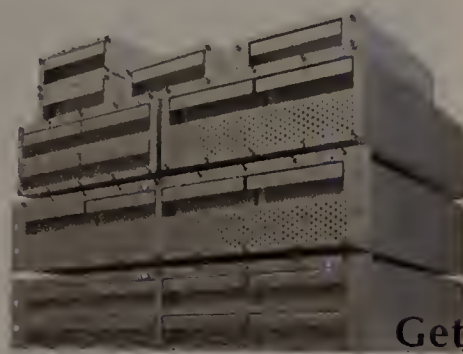
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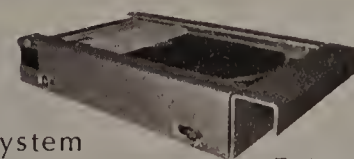


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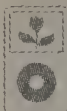
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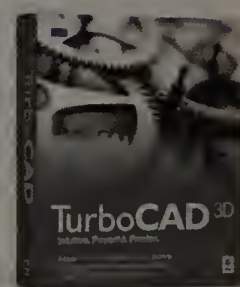
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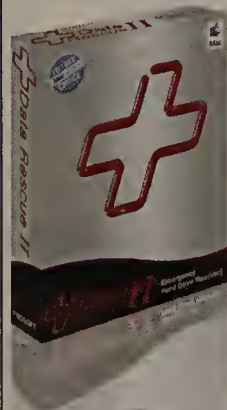
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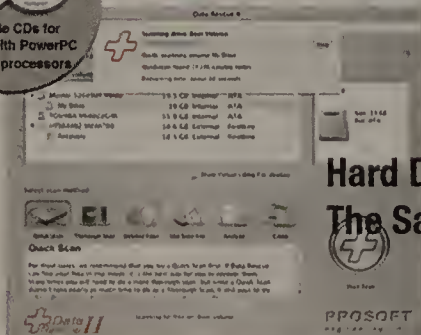
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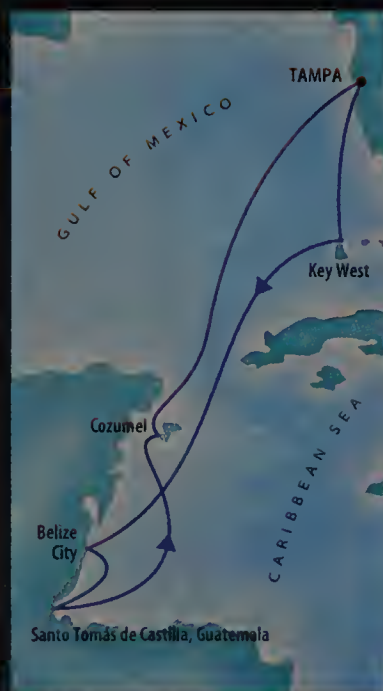
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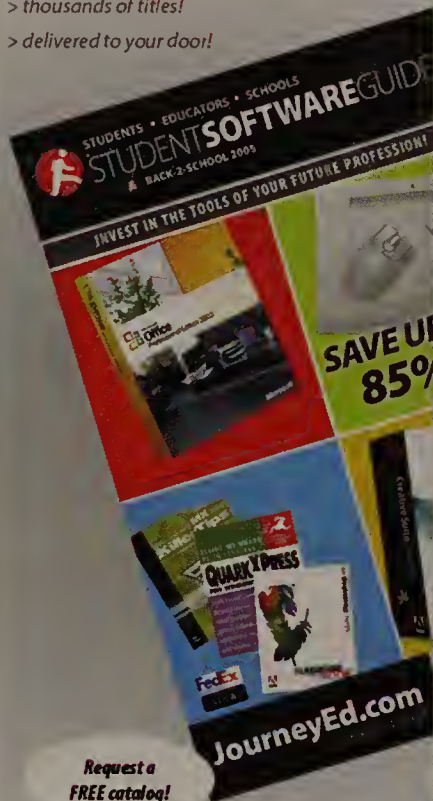
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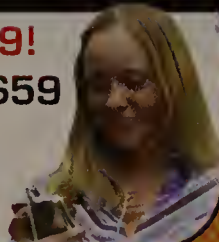
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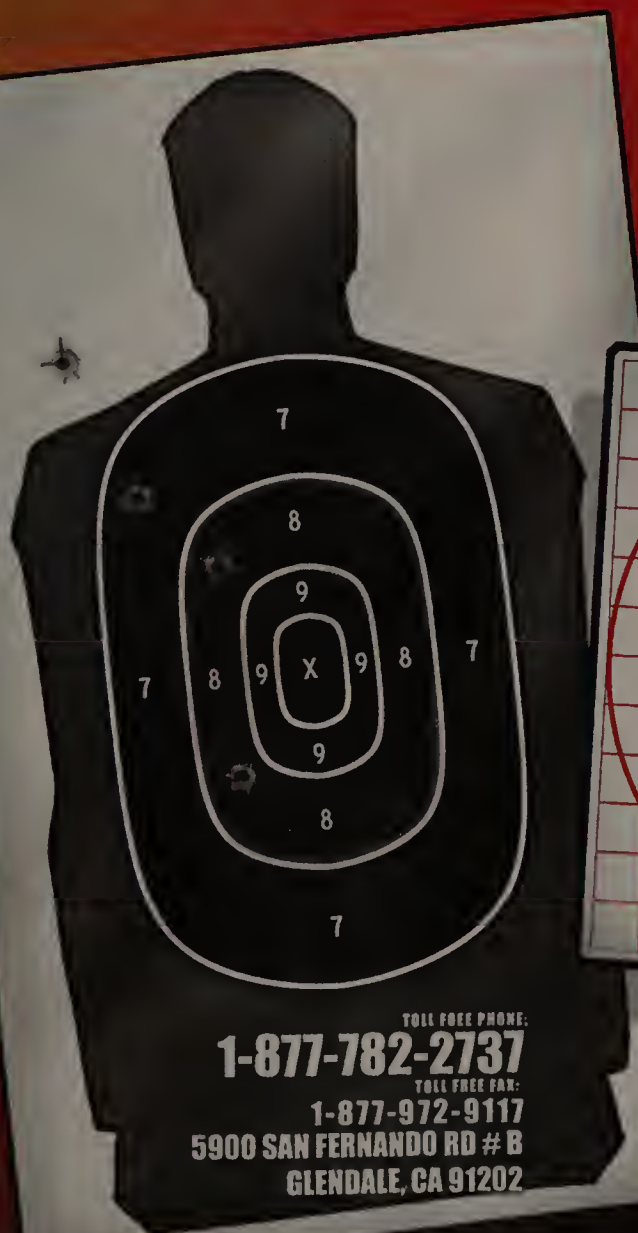
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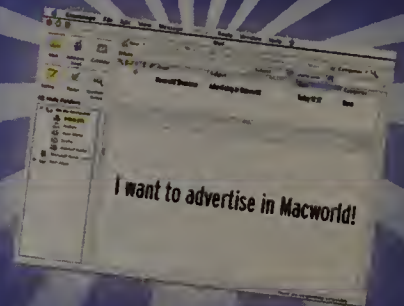
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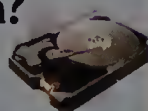
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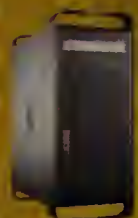
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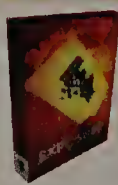
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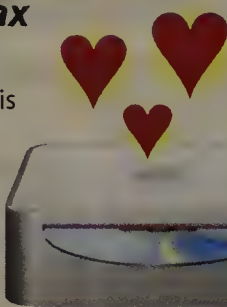
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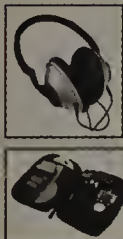
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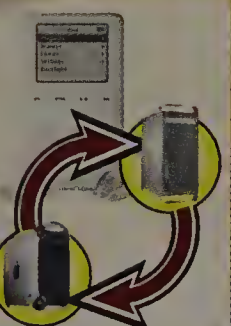
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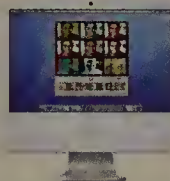
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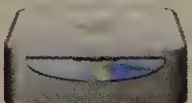
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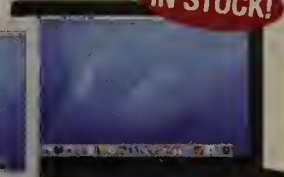
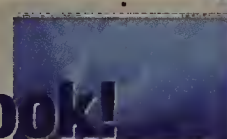
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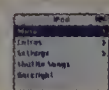
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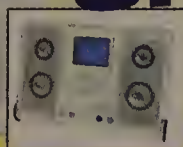
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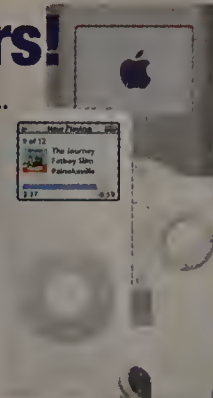


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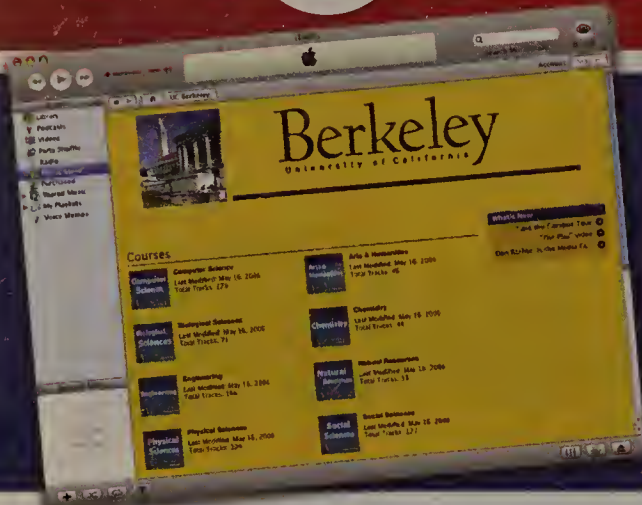
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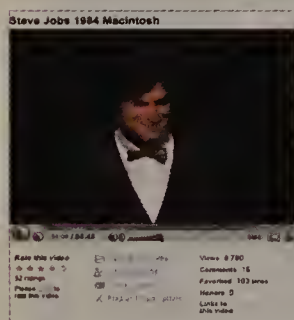


UC Berkeley on iTunes U

In late April, the University of California at Berkeley became the latest addition to the iTunes U program, which lets universities use the iTunes interface for distributing material to students. But unlike most other members of the program, Cal has made many classes and guest lectures by luminaries such as Hans Blix and Thomas L. Friedman available as free podcasts for anyone (not just students). Other offerings include a short clip of "The Play," which lets Cal alumni (including yours truly) relive the dramatic come-from-behind football victory over Stanford in 1982 (itunes.berkeley.edu).—CYRUS FARIVAR

Apple on YouTube

You could waste an entire work week just cruising around YouTube (www.youtube.com) and perusing its ever growing library of user-submitted videos. And those of us who have a particular

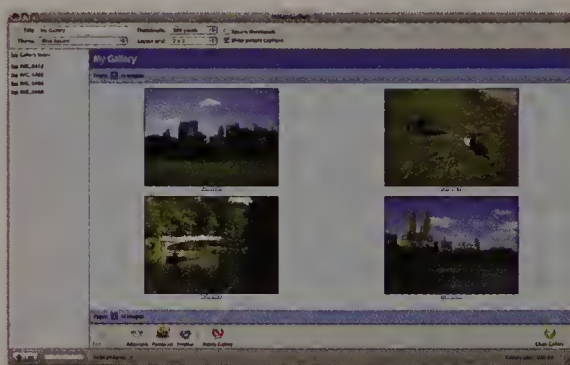


obsession with a certain fruit-themed computer company can easily resign ourselves to kissing a productive afternoon goodbye. You can find a rash of Apple-related videos, from the historical (Steve Jobs unveiling the original Macintosh at macworld

.com/1401) to the current (the Apple CEO detailing the company's expansion plans to the Cupertino City Council at macworld.com/1402) to the just plain bizarre (a mash-up of a Macworld Expo keynote and a particularly amped up Steve Ballmer at macworld.com/1404).—PHILIP MICHAELS

InstantGallery 1.1

While online photo galleries are plentiful, those with an attractive look-and-feel are much harder to find. If you want to join the ranks of the latter, check out ThinkMac Software's \$15 InstantGallery 1.1—an easy-to-use tool with a well-designed interface. Drag and drop photos onto the application window to start building your Web photo gallery, and then pick one of many themes to match your mood or the type of photos you plan to share (www.thinkmac.co.uk).—JIM DALRYMPLE



DivX 6.5



Because it produces high-quality video (all the way up to HD resolutions) with relatively small file sizes for computers, some portable devices, and DVD players, the DivX encoding format has become increasingly popular among video enthusiasts such as myself. The latest version, DivX for Mac 6.5, adds a desktop player with full-screen playback, a desktop dimmer, mouse gesture controls, and fade-away windows; a Web player; and a pro codec and converter application updated for Intel-based Macs. All playback components are free, but using the converter and pro codec will cost you \$20 after their respective trial periods expire (www.divx.com).—JONATHAN SEFF

WHAT'S HOT

Brought to you by John Moltz of the Crazy Apple Rumors Site (www.crazyapplerumors.com)

- 1 Apple introduces its MacBook laptop, in a choice of black or white. Indecisive shoppers are already asking for a swirled model that includes a bit of both flavors—I mean colors.
- 2 Nike and Apple team up to offer shoes that transfer workout stats to your iPod. Hey Apple, if you're looking for any other clothing companies to strike deals with, might I suggest Victoria's Secret?
- 3 Apple introduces a new ad campaign featuring a young hip actor as a Mac and an older nerd as a PC. The next round of ads will introduce a third character—a penniless hobo representing Linux.
- 4 Dell announces plans to open retail stores that don't stock merchandise to take home. That way when their orders arrive, customers can at least hope they'll look better than the Dell hardware on display.

INSTANT HANDBRAKE

There are skeptics out there who don't think that the iPod is suitable for watching videos, but I really enjoy watching TV shows and movies on mine. And getting your DVDs onto your iPod has just gotten a lot easier. Eric Petit, the author of the excellent DVD conversion tool HandBrake, has released a beta of Instant HandBrake, which automatically figures out which tracks you're most likely to want to extract. You choose your target device and whether you want the app to crop your movies or keep them in wide-screen format. Then you pick an audio track and, optionally, a subtitle track, and click on the Convert button. That's all there is to it (handbrake.m0k.org).—JASON SNELL



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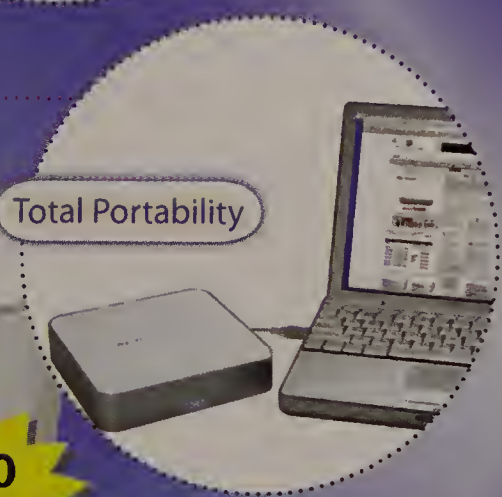
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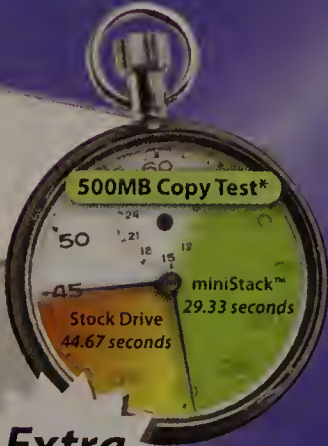


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YOUR CREATIVE VISION ISN'T ALL THAT PRODUCES BIG, BRILLIANT OUTPUT.



HP PHOTOSMART PRO B9180 PHOTO PRINTER
\$699*
 Available September 1, 2006²

- Precise color controls that make it easy to get accurate, consistent color print after print—automatically
- Archivable, gallery quality output up to 13" by 19" that is exceptionally durable, waterproof and resists fading for more than 200 years¹
- Fast—13" by 19" prints in less than 15 minutes each

It's simple. Big, brilliant ideas need output to match.

And now you can take that output to a whole new level with the first pigment ink printer in the HP family of printers for creatives: the NEW HP Photosmart Pro B9180 Photo Printer. The HP Photosmart Pro B9180 features individual pigment inks and precise, automatic color management, as well as gallery-quality prints and versatility across a wide range of media.

You can count on HP printers for creatives for long-lasting photo-quality output¹ from postcard to poster size that looks as dazzling as you envisioned it, whether it's for color comps, layouts, mock-ups, contact sheets, exhibition prints and more. Get output to match your creativity.



HP DESIGNJET 130
 SERIES PRINTER

Starting at: **\$1,295***

- Supports oversized output up to 24 in x 50 ft
- Output that resists fading for up to 82 years¹
- Consistent color, print to print and printer to printer

**Go online to get more information
 or request a print sample today!**

Call: **1-800-888-5858**

Click: **hp.com/go/graphicdesign4**



*Estimated U.S. retail price, actual price may vary.
¹Based on Wilhelm+Research.com testing (visit www.wilhelm-research.com for full details) for similar systems: For the HP Photosmart Pro B9180, based on display permanence testing under glass using HP Advanced Photo Paper, HP Matte Photo Paper, HP Hahnemühle Smooth Fine Art Paper and HP Hahnemühle Watercolor; similar display permanence with additional HP-recommended papers. Waterproof performance with HP Advanced Photo Paper; water-resistant with other HP-recommended papers. For the HP DesignJet 130, fade resistance is up to 82 years under glass or over 200 years in a photo album using the HP No. 85 Ink Cartridges on HP Premium Plus papers. For more information on fade and water resistance for these and other systems, visit <http://hp.com/go/printpermanence>. The HP Photosmart Pro B9180 Photo Printer's anticipated availability date is September 1, 2006, subject to change. © 2006 Hewlett-Packard Development Company, L.P. The information contained herein is subject to change without notice. Some of the images are simulated.